

Appendix 15.1. Alternative Texts

Basketball/Winter

Defining culture freewriting prompt: Spend a few minutes writing about a basketball game that you remember attending: at your own school, at another school, or at a college. Discuss what you perceived about the school. Was it large or small? Rural or urban? Did the fans do or chant anything, did the band play anything, did the team or fans perform any traditions that helped to define the school or set it apart from others?

Connecting to readings: Discussion focus—basketball’s roles in specific geographic or social cultures:

- “Why We Play Basketball” poem by Sherman Alexie (American Indian culture)
- Excerpt from *Slam!* novel by Walter Dean Myers (urban youth culture)

Audio/visual:

- *Hoosiers* movie, rated PG (rural high school culture)
- *Chiefs* PBS documentary, available online (basketball on Native American reservations)
- Audio of Sherman Alexie reading “Why We Play Basketball” (available online)

Student research activity: Find a media article that criticizes, questions, or highlights a problem with or about youth or college basketball. (Note to teachers: this works especially well around the time of local high school and NCAA tournaments and the Final Four when media coverage is plentiful.)

Brainstorming and writing research questions remain the same as in the baseball lesson.

Football/Autumn

Defining culture freewriting prompt: Spend a few minutes writing about a football game that you attended or a high school or college game that you watched on TV. Discuss what you perceived about the school. Was it large or small? Rural or urban? What role did females play? Did the fans do or chant anything, did the band play anything, did the team or fans perform any traditions that helped to define the school or set it apart from others?

Connecting to readings: Discussion focus—football’s role in a school’s social culture:

- Excerpt from nonfiction book *Friday Night Lights* by H. G. Bissinger
- Excerpt from young adult novel *Dairy Queen* by Catherine Gilbert Murdock (about a girl from a Wisconsin dairy farm who tries out for her school’s football team)
- High school section of *Sports Illustrated* website (specifically, to examine how both male and female athletes are highlighted during football season)

Audio/visual:

- Clip from *Friday Night Lights*, rated PG-13, or *Remember the Titans*, rated PG
- *Football High* PBS documentary (available online)

Student research activity: Find a media article that criticizes, questions, or highlights a problem in or about youth or college football.

Brainstorming and writing research questions remain the same as in this lesson.

You might also choose to read, write, and talk about a specific example such as bullfighting in Spain, though I like to focus on familiar sports in class and leave the more creative ideas for students' topics.