Appendix 23.3. Focusing on Sociopolitical Issues and Taking Action and Promoting Social Justice

Interrogating the Culture of School Sports: Focusing on Sociopolitical Issues

Review the readings a second time, and note the verbal and nonverbal language depicted. Create your own graphic organizer to respond to the following prompts:

1. What verbal and nonverbal language stands out to you?
2. In what ways does that language empower some groups and disempower other groups?
3. Who is privileged and who is oppressed by the kinds of behavior and language we sometimes see in sport sites?
4. What do you see in the text that combats this privileging and oppression of certain groups?
Interrogating the Culture of School Sports: Focusing on Sociopolitical Issues

As we prepare to share in small groups and as a whole class, please keep in mind our class expectations regarding civil discourse:

- Do not tell others how they should feel.
- Do not single out individuals to be spokespeople for their race, gender, class standing, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, etc.
- Ask or state questions and comments in a way that will promote greater understanding rather than defensiveness.
- Share and actively listen to views with which you both agree and disagree in order to advance your own learning.

Partner or Small-Group Share: Jot down new understandings gleaned from your conversation. Attribute ideas to specific classmates.

Preparing for whole-class discussion: Review your notes on the texts and from your partner or small-group conversation. Star or highlight at least two ideas or questions (yours or your classmate’s) that you want to share with the whole class.

Class Discussion: Jot down new perspectives and insights from the discussion. Attribute ideas to specific classmates.
Interrogating the Culture of School Sports: Taking Action and Promoting Social Justice

Independent Reflection:
Review your freewriting and your notes over the readings, and return to this question: Are student locker rooms, training facilities, pep assemblies, and competition venues safe places for everyone? Has your perspective shifted? If so, how and why? If not, why not? Write as much as you can in 5 minutes. Don’t worry about conventions. Just write.

Thinking ahead: What ideas do you have for making sport sites safe for everyone?