

NEWS BREAK

Sunday's News Break selects an article from Sunday, September 11, 2016 of The Seattle Times e-Edition for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions. **Please remember to always preview the content of the article before sharing with your students.**

Article: When an athlete takes a knee during the national anthem, is the silent protest disrespectful or thoughtful? (Main, A1)

Pre-Reading and Vocabulary

- **What is your prior knowledge about this recent issue? What are your initial thoughts about it?**

Vocabulary: Match the words to the numbered definitions in the chart below.

A. anthem	1. to think about intently and at length; consider calmly
B. commemorate	2. honesty, fairness, or integrity in one's beliefs and actions: <i>a man of honor.</i>
C. contemplate	3. to exert a stimulating or beneficial effect upon (a person); animate or invigorate
D. custom	4. to serve as a memorial or reminder of: <i>The monument commemorates the signing of the Declaration of Independence.</i>
E. honor	5. force or speed of movement; impetus, as of a physical object or course of events:
F. ignite	6. a song, as of praise, devotion, or patriotism
G. inspire	7. to hurt the feelings, sense of dignity, etc...
H. momentum	8. a habitual practice; the usual way of acting in given circumstances.
I. offend	9. the handing down of statements, beliefs, legends, customs, information, etc., from generation to generation, especially by word of mouth or by practice

J. tradition	10. to stimulate or provoke: <i>the case has ignited a nationwide debate</i>
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Comprehension

1. Some are offended, others inspired, and many of us are left wondering what's next in athletes' protests of racial inequality and police brutality during the national anthem as the Seahawks kick off their season Sunday and the nation commemorates the 15th anniversary of 9/11. What is your opinion regarding this issue?
2. Will team owners use pre-emptive strikes like the Washington Spirit did Wednesday, playing the anthem before players left the locker rooms, denying Seattle soccer star Megan Rapinoe a chance to take what the Spirit called a "disrespectful" knee?
3. Who is the NFL player that ignited these protests?
4. What did the Seahawks plan, for their team-wide statement?
5. Others, such as Garfield High School football players, spent the week talking about whether to make a statement before their game Saturday afternoon, according to Coach Joey Thomas. What did they decide to do?
6. The city of Dupont in Pierce County canceled its third annual Seahawks rally that was scheduled for Saturday. Why?
7. The tradition of standing during the national anthem has some roots here in the Pacific Northwest. When did it begin and where?
8. Protests by athletes are not new, either. What happened at the 1968 Olympics and who were they inspired by?

Group Discussion Questions or Extension Essay Questions:

- **When an athlete takes a knee during the national anthem, is the silent protest disrespectful or thoughtful?**

- ***Will the movement gain momentum, with whole squads such as the Seahawks contemplating group protests? Or will the team instead, as receiver Doug Baldwin tweeted, “honor the country and flag” and find some middle ground?***

- ***But the Seahawks are planning a team-wide statement, which could be a game-changer in a league where two-thirds of the players are black and where, some say, white owners occasionally resemble plantation masters from “Django Unchained” looking down from luxury boxes at black gladiators. Why would the author of this article say this? Has this thought ever crossed your mind? Is this hierarchy racially motivated or is it simply a bi-product of capitalism?***

- ***Some will find protests all the more distasteful on 9/11 because of the idea they disrespect the U.S. military, which has secured our freedom to watch games and express dissent. What do you think about these protests? Have you talked with your friends about it? Have you talked to your parents or other family members? Military friends or family? What are the opinions you’re hearing from your social circles? Do you agree or disagree with them?***

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Newsbreak Answer Key: September 11, 2016

Vocabulary

- A. 6
- B. 4
- C. 1
- D. 8
- E. 2
- F. 10
- G. 3
- H. 5
- I. 7
- J. 9

Comprehension Questions

1. Personal Answers
2. Personal Answers
3. The 49ers' Colin Kaepernick
4. Stand together, arm in arm and sing the national anthem together
5. Ultimately, the anthem wasn't played before that game, as it wasn't the first of the day in Memorial Stadium.
6. "This does not mean that I or the city do not support the causes being championed, we simply do not support the protest actions being contemplated," said Mayor Mike Courts.
7. In 1893, Army Gen. Rossell O'Brien, a Civil War veteran, made a motion at a meeting in Tacoma that all should stand at attention during the "Star-Spangled Banner." A local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution later hung a plaque on the Bostwick Building in Tacoma toasting O'Brien for starting the custom, although others credit statesman Daniel Webster with launching the tradition decades earlier.
8. U.S. sprinters John Carlos and Tommie Smith stood on the medal platform and raised gloved fists in a black power salute against racial injustice. They said they were inspired by Muhammad Ali.