

HST 202: ONLINE U.S. History W19 (Escobar)

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Professional Sports, Data, & Images
by [Joe Escobar](#) - Saturday, March 2, 2019, 4:07 PM

This thread is for discussions on the Professional Sports, Data, & Images topic.

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IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post, something that describes the questions you are addressing.
Do NOT simply leave it RE: Professional Sports, Data, & Images

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One opinion is enough.
by [Alli Crank](#) - Monday, March 4, 2019, 2:46 PM

Before reading this article, I would've argued that to an extent yes numbers within data do matter and are significant. If these numbers are representing the majority of Native Americans in our country, why wouldn't we go off of them? When put in terms like Judy Joyner did by saying “You’ll find people who don’t like puppies and kittens and Santa Claus. It doesn't mean we’re going to wipe them off the face of the earth,"it makes sense to allow the mascot based off of the data. But, right after she says this an important question is prompted which is what changed my mind. "Is it appropriate for the name of a professional sports team to insult any percentage of a population that has historically been so mistreated by this country’s majority?" The answer for me now is that data and numbers do still matter however my focus has shifted from the majority should win to in this case, the majority should not win. I would argue that anyone of Native American descent has the right to "vote" in these poles regardless of whether or not they are in a tribe. The term "Redskin" is considered a racial slur and though to some it may not be as harsh as other racial slurs, it still can be put into the same category. Because of the history linked to the term "Redskin" that is associated with the oppression of Native Americans, one Native Americans offense should be enough to veto the Washington Redskins mascot. The cartoons toward the end of the article titled "Can You Imagine?" brings up an important point. The other mascots associated with these races would cause so much controversy so why isn't this the same with Native Americans/Indians? The video makes another good point as well by stating that Native Americans do refer to themselves by so many names, but "Redskins" is most certainly not one which should be alarming.

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Re: One opinion is enough.
by [Isaiah Smith](#) - Friday, March 8, 2019, 5:48 PM

After posting my response to Mr. Escobar, I've thought a lot about my answer. I would've agreed with you as well at the beginning of your article where you state that data matters, but now that I've had time to ponder, I changed my mind. Just like you said, should a name demean anyone or come close? I believe not as well now. Thanks for the article, very insightful on your view of the situation.



My Evaluation of the Washington Redskins Mascot/Name Debate

by [Isaiah Smith](#) - Wednesday, March 6, 2019, 8:01 PM

After analyzing this article and watching the video, I have a lot to say. Firstly I whole-heartedly believe that data is important. If we never had data, or used analysis to form data, the world would be a lot different. If polls were never analyzed and understood and washed under the rug, the world wouldn't prosper like it does now. If we look at numbers and "votes," and things to that degree, I think they hold an importance. However, numbers aren't always accurate, you could take as many polls or votes as you'd like, but endgame is the overall attitude of the "minority," or purpose of it. If a poll is taken about the Redskins and a name change or if the name is derogatory and the numbers come back as it is not, but social media is blowing up about it, or rioting begins to happen because of it, then obviously the numbers are not 100% correct. Its also so interesting to see the difference between the ACTUAL culture thats involved in comparison with all others. The question is; Why is this topic so controversial to everyone but Native Americans?

I believe, following the rules of democracy is as stated. The ultimate end decision is final. I thoroughly believe this, if thats what Democratic Party is for, then that's the final result. However, does that amount to justice? A majority vote is a majority vote and not everyone gets exactly what they want/need. I believe this doesn't bring justice to a situation, because you still have people like Anita Witworth, from the article, who states that she hates the name. If you have people who are genuinely concerned and have good reason to be, like the disrespect and racism to their children, then what real justice is being worked through democracy?

Using my own values, I view the mascot as derogatory and demeaning to a degree to Native Americans. However, notice I said to a degree, I don't see the mascot and immediately want a change, its subtle to me. I believe in whatever the native culture were arguing about has to say and I politely agree or disagree. If most Native Americans don't mind the name or the mascot, then why should I?

I personally believe that the only valid side to an argument, is in which the main idea is being focused towards that specific group. If Native Americans do not mind the name, then why do others care? If they changed their mind and asked for a change, then a change must be put in order. Theres no argument from another side, because the other side has no say, its not about them. I also believe that universities and professional share the same amount of importance. Both levels acquire almost the same amount of interaction and view time, so to think that a pro-team is more influential is underestimating the collegiate team and vise-versa. However, images play a huge role in slur and derogatory talk to cultures. I truly believe, on campus slur is real and its revived by images as such.

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Which voices should be heard

by [Brianna Shelley](#) - Wednesday, March 6, 2019, 10:06 PM

I believe that the Washington Redskins name should be changed, even if the polls are correct and it only offends a small minority of the Native American population. I think the article touched on many important points; first, collecting data for a poll over the phone and simply having the person tell you whether of not they are native American is not a reliable way to conduct a poll. Anyone can say they are Native American. There is absolutely no proof that the population sampled is who they say they are. Second, after everything our government has put the Native American's through, their voices deserve to be heard. Even if it is something as trivial (to some) as the changing of an NFL Football's team name. The requirements of this assignment do not allow for me to list all the ways Indian's were mistreated throughout history, since this is supposed to be a short paragraph or two, not an essay. But time after time the treaties struck with the Native Americans and the government were broken to foster white settlement and expansion. It slowly stripped them of more and more of their land and their way of life. In 1887 the Dawes Severalty Act robbed Native Americans of their land and called for the dissolution of their tribes as legal entities. It also forbade Indian religions, the telling of Indian myths and legends as well as the practices of medicine men. (Liberty, Equality, Power; Page 611) In an attempt to "civilize" Native Americans, our government tried to strip them of everything that made them, them.

Daniel Snyder, the owner of the Redskins was quoted saying "The Washington Redskins team, our fans and community have always believed our name represents honor, respect and pride."(Professional Sports, Data and Images; Page 4) I think the majority of Americans are unaware of just how inhumane the treatment and suffering of the Native American people really was. They have endured so much throughout history and continue to because of how they were treated in the past. I think if people today were aware of all the facts, they would see using a racial

slur as a moniker for a National team name is disrespectful. If we really want to respect and show restitution for the Native American people, then we should go to work on solving the problems of poverty, [violence](#) and addictions ravaging their communities. As Anita Whitworth said, "It's time to change. It's time to move on." (Professional Sports, Data & Images; Page 10)

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Re: Which voices should be heard
by [Miles Long](#) - Sunday, March 10, 2019, 8:04 PM

I agree with all of your points. The way that this poll was conducted really skews who is sampled and makes me think the data presented is not valid/presented in a way to favor the Redskins Owners. Some people would say that these mascots are honoring Natives and that the voices of Natives are being heard. I would agree with you that this is not the case. Florendo puts it best in the Register Guard article saying "If your people have been the victims of genocide, it's real hard to listen to anyone on the other side saying anything about respecting you." The government has already shown that they are not respectful of Native American cultures though. This was demonstrated when Natives were forced to go to Indian Boarding Schools in order to become indoctrinated with "American Society", leaving behind traditions, religions, cultures and many other things from Native American societies.

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Re: Professional Sports, Data, & Images
by [Emilie Ormsby](#) - Thursday, March 7, 2019, 8:34 PM

"What makes those attitudes more striking: The general public appears to object more strongly to the name than Indians do."Perhaps Americans can't live with symbols reminding us of our bloody past. I don't feel that the mascots being a symbol of "honor" is a good enough argument to keep a name regarding this debate. If we really wanted to honor Native American tribes and acknowledge our past, we should consider the actual issues at hand. As mentioned, "Those interviewed highlighted again and again other challenges to their communities that they consider much more urgent than an NFL team's name: substandard schools, substance abuse, unemployment." Part of the issue itself is the fact that honoring Native Americans by naming a football team after them. Perhaps that's why so many Native Americans were not offended by the name of a football team, but would instead like actual recognition and care from the American government. "Let's start taking care of our people and quit worrying about names like Washington Redskins," said Randy Whitworth, 58, who lives on the Flathead Indian Reservation in Montana."

I do also question the validity of the Washington Post Poll because they said it was done via landline. Harjo mentions that many people claim to be native even if they are not, for one reason or another. This could have potentially altered the results from the polls, making the poll less than valid. I thought it was interesting that Harjo claims their experience is completely opposite of what the polls reported. One of the most important questions, in my opinion, is Is it appropriate for the name of a professional sports team to insult any percentage of a population that has historically been so mistreated by this country's majority? This is where I hesitate to agree with those who have not historically been oppressed.

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Re: Professional Sports, Data, & Images
by [Miles Long](#) - Saturday, March 9, 2019, 6:03 PM

The poll from the Washington Post is a huge misrepresentation of how many Native Peoples actually feel. The poll is also done by a random national sample of only 504 Natives. There are millions of Natives that live in this country. That is such a small sample size that the data isn't actually relevant, and is definitely skewed to the bias of the Washington Redskins owner.

The NFL should not be using a racial slur as a marketing technique. Period. This is not a case of majority rule. Even if a minority are offended by this racist name, then it needs to be changed.

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 **Re: Professional Sports, Data, & Images**
by [Alli Crank](#) - Sunday, March 10, 2019, 3:13 PM



I searched in google "Washington Redskins fans" and these are two of the first images that popped up. I am not a Native American, but from the little knowledge I have about them and their history of oppression, these two pictures make me feel sick. Again, I cannot speak for those who are Native Americans or understand how they feel, but these two images seem to link a negative connotation to Natives. The most disturbing part of these fans is that one man's face is painted red and two fans have on pigs noses. The pig noses refer to the term "hogs" which is linked with the Redskin's offensive line up. To me, when I think about hogs I think of a large dirty animal and cannot understand what positive connotations could come out of the way these fans are dressed. Fans link certain aspects of the Native American culture like head dresses and face paint to this football team because of their name and this negates the Native American culture itself. When people think of the term "Redskin" they shouldn't think of a football team, they should think of the oppression of Native Americans that came through that term.

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 **Blanket Ban, Fair or Not**
by [Brianna Caridio](#) - Sunday, March 10, 2019, 4:18 PM

Polling may be an indication of the general population's opinion on an issue, however there are many factors involved when conducting a study that can have huge impacts upon the results. For instance, the poll was conducted by calling cellphones and landlines, therefore any person without a phone could not be randomly selected for questioning. There are also many different types of "random" selection used by those who study Probability and Statistics. The studies referenced did not have very high samples in comparison to the population being studied, I see that as a red flag. Overall, these studies do not seem to have enough data to accurately make assumptions about the population.

Use of mascots by schools that are not benefiting monetarily seems less bad than by professional sports teams that are making a lot of money. If a professional sports team were to continue to use a Native American image as their mascot or nickname, it would only be fair for Native Americans to have a say in how it is used, in educating people against stereotypes and to receive a portion of the profits.

In the articles given for reference, many Native Americans oppose the use of mascots, but many want to increase education about their history to combat racism, also the opportunity to fix negative stereotypes. Doing away with something all together does not necessarily fix the problem, but discussion and education may be able to.

The NCAA wanted all Native American mascots to be removed, but there was a wide range. The Washington "Redskins" would be, in my opinion, on the more negative side of the spectrum while the North Dakota "Fighting Sioux" on the more positive and respectful side. The "Fighting Sioux" fought against settlers to retain their land. "After gold-seekers poured into the Black Hills of western Dakota, a sacred place to the Sioux," "Sioux warriors led by Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse, along with their Cheyenne allies, wiped out George A. Custer and the 225 men with him" (Murrin pg. 609). The retaliation crushed the Sioux and "confined them to a reservation in Dakota Territory where poverty, disease and alcoholism reduced them to a desperate condition" (Murrin pg. 609). The Ralph Engelstad Area in North Dakota features a statue of Sitting Bull in front of the entrance to the building. This is an example of a mascot and name that seem to be done in a way to honor the Sioux tribe, maybe it could have been done in a more respectful way, but the intention does not seem to be of malintent.

3/14/2019

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How bad are teams hurting the culture?
by [Taylor Reid](#) - Sunday, March 10, 2019, 7:16 PM

I think that in some cases data does matter. The fact that the polls taken are so high in saying that Native Americans don't care about the football team being offensively named is very misleading. Come to find out, there are quite a lot of people who do care about the team name and find it demeaning to be belittled down to a team mascot when the true history and culture is not respected or even passed along. I don't think the majority should always win, especially when it is dealing with a culture being offended. I think if there are a group of people who disagree with the mascots, those are the voices that should be heard. Each side has very valid points and everyone has the right to their own opinions. I think our history has a large part of the outcome of the debate because that is what the Native Americans are basing their feelings off of. In the past Indians were not treated well, so why would they be "glorified" now. I think that their is a difference because major leagues are on such a larger scale than say, a high school team. Images like the cartoons shown depict how truly racist these matters can be.

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