

Forum 4

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**Indian Mascots***by Joe Escobar - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 10:16 AM*

This forum thread is for Indian Mascots posts and replies.

After studying the required materials, address the various questions. To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post. To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post. Do NOT simply leave it RE: Indian Mascots

Sum of ratings: -

[Edit](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Indian Mascots***by Delaney Crook - Sunday, March 1, 2015, 10:18 AM*

After reading both the article and the letter to the editor regarding Indian mascots it left me feeling very conflicted about the issue. To start, I completely agreed with many of the students in that representing an Indian mascot can be a very prideful and respectful aspect of a school. When you are representing your school as an athlete or student you take great pride in your mascot and represent it will. I understand how the students felt that it is an honor to be representing these Indian mascots, and in that sense, I felt as though it was somewhat unnecessary to be banning these mascots.

On the other hand, I did realize that I cannot completely understand how the Native Americans feel about this issue, because I do not have any background, and very little knowledge about the culture and heritage. I do see why and how many students with a Native American background could despise and feel embarrassed by this issue, and I understand why they would want to ban these mascots.

The final aspect of the articles that stood out to me was the idea of the letter written to the editor about getting rid of any mascot that negatively impacts a students culture or heritage. As he stated, this would leave us having to ban nearly all mascots, at least in our area, which all represent a single culture or heritage. This led me to question, why is it that we are having this issue with Indian mascots, and not all other mascots that stem from another culture or background? Is it because there are so many schools that represent these mascots, or perhaps the way the Indian mascots are represented are not done so in a respectful or honorable manner, as the others are?

At this point in the issue, I do not feel as though it is necessary to completely ban any school mascot from the Indian culture. While I do understand and sympathize with those from these cultures that feel embarrassed or disrespected, I do not think there has been

enough significant controversy over the topic to ban right now.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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Indian Mascots and Different Terms

by [Haley Anderson](#) - Monday, March 2, 2015, 11:56 PM

I really liked what you had to say about the Native American Mascots. After reading the articles I also came to the realization that these students really took pride in representing these Natives tribes, and when that is taken into consideration why are those mascots looked down upon? As Delaney states, is it the way that these mascots are not represented in what is seen as a politically correct way? And if so, maybe that aspect can be changed.

I think that more discussion can be made over the ban of these kinds of mascots, certain terms could be made with these specific schools and the native tribes so that these mascots could do their native tribes justice and represent the Native people in a great way. These mascots could really have a positive impact on a lot of people, if done so correctly.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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"Mascots" right or wrong

by [Adam Graves](#) - Sunday, March 1, 2015, 3:57 PM

It's hard to not feel for anyone with Indian heritage that would be offended by schools using Indians as their mascots. With that said, it didn't seem that there was a lot of opposition to the use of Indians as mascots. You would assume that if they felt strongly about the subject they would've weighted in on the matter. This is not to say that if they did, that we should fully cooperate with the wishes of the tribes. I strongly believe after reading chapter 18, specifically the Dawes Severalty Act (pg. 628) that dissolved tribes as legal entities, offered individual Indian families land if they were "severed" from their tribes. It also forced Indians to stop practicing their religions, as well as any other practices that were part of the Indian culture. Because of this I think that tribes would have a right to stand up for any sort of discrimination towards their race. Although I think that schools never meant to use Indians as a way to be racist, and has the student in the article said that it's a symbol of pride and honor; which is how I think the Cow Creek tribe in the article seemed to view the use of the mascot in Roseburg.

Sum of ratings: 3 (1)

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Re: "Mascots" right or wrong

by [Delaney Crook](#) - Monday, March 2, 2015, 1:26 PM

Your idea regarding the opposition by Native Americans made me realize that this issue has not been contradictory enough, yet, to make it a big enough deal to ban these mascots. If this was extremely discriminatory and disrespectful to the Indian heritage I would assume there would be more uprising from the tribes, than there has been. Also, your idea about not necessarily following all of their wishes to ban the tribes got me thinking about the other mascots named in the letter to the editor. If we did fully cooperate with the tribes and ban all of the Indian mascots, I would think we would then have to ban all other mascots that may be offensive to other cultures. This would cause us to ban many, many, mascots, which makes me question if the issue is that controversial to go to this extent.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Re: "Mascots" right or wrong

by [Adam Graves](#) - Tuesday, March 3, 2015, 4:53 PM

I do believe that the letter to the editor was taking things to the extreme and there has to be a line in the sand on when enough is enough. He might've took thinks too far, my high school mascot was the Highlander, other then the annoying bagpipes I don't think Scottish people would've been offended by him. It would be different if the mascot was being a loud angry scotch drinking Highlander, but that was not the case. I do feel like if there are schools using Indians as mascots that there not having their mascots depict them in any sort of demeaning fashion.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Mascot Controversy

by [Trinidad Delgado](#) - Monday, March 2, 2015, 1:30 PM

When reading the article and the letter, it pertains to be a debate about controversy versus patriotism. Before Oregon announced that it would ban Native American mascots, some school districts have used these mascots as a symbol of a fighting spirit, which only a few of the recognized tribes here in Oregon did not take it offensively. I felt that schools using mascots as a way of identifying themselves might be an act of stereotyping Native Americans. It may lead for the natives to feel degraded by their race because of the oppression their people have endured since the inhabited of foreigners. I agree on banning the remaining Indian mascots here in Oregon because it creates racial slurs and discrimination.

I believe in some ways Native Americans would take this offensively. For example, if a rival team opposes the team that has an Indian mascot, they might invoke racist slogans in regards to their team's identity. As I can relate, being of Hispanic origin, I see and read on the news of how Hispanics are being discriminated, which I feel offended by it. I do not see myself in that nature when comparing to what I hear on the news about a "typical" Hispanic coming over the border. In contrast, I believe that a minority of native peoples would still consider schools using their people as a mascot would be offended.

School districts, colleges, and sports teams who use Native American as mascots should rename or change it to something less racial, and controversial. This debate retaliates against their civil rights as human beings. There should be a resolution that puts an end to using a Native American as mascots, names or as images. It should only be used if it has the consent of the tribes in those states.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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We know better

by [Carson Raz](#) - Monday, March 2, 2015, 1:31 PM

I really like what Brenda had to say when she said "sixty years later and we know better" I think that if a mascot is offensive to anyone in the community it should be considered for a change. We're talking about high schools which a paid for by tax payers of the community and therefore they should never feel offended by the mascot. On the other hand it makes sense why it can't be done over night because it would cost tax payers even more money. Changing emblems, reprinting the field and or gym, getting all new uniforms it's definitely no easy task. That being said it's still important that everyone feels respected in their community and now students of any race should feel put down or offended by their own school mascot.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: We know better

by [Delaney Crook](#) - Wednesday, March 4, 2015, 10:07 AM

I like and agree with your idea on the tax payers of the community and that everyone should feel respected. I think this is an important idea, because we are dealing with

public high schools that are intended to accept and respect every person, no matter what their background. With that said, it is very true that it would be difficult to make these changes, and I feel that with the amount of changes that would have to be made, it is not necessary at this time. I feel from the article there was not enough opposition and feelings of disrespect from Native Americans to spend that much time and money making the changes right now. If this issue continues, and more opposition arises, then it is definitely a matter of honoring and respecting every one in the community and the changes would be necessary.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Re: We know better

by [Carson Raz](#) - Friday, March 6, 2015, 4:23 PM

Totally agree we are on the same page.

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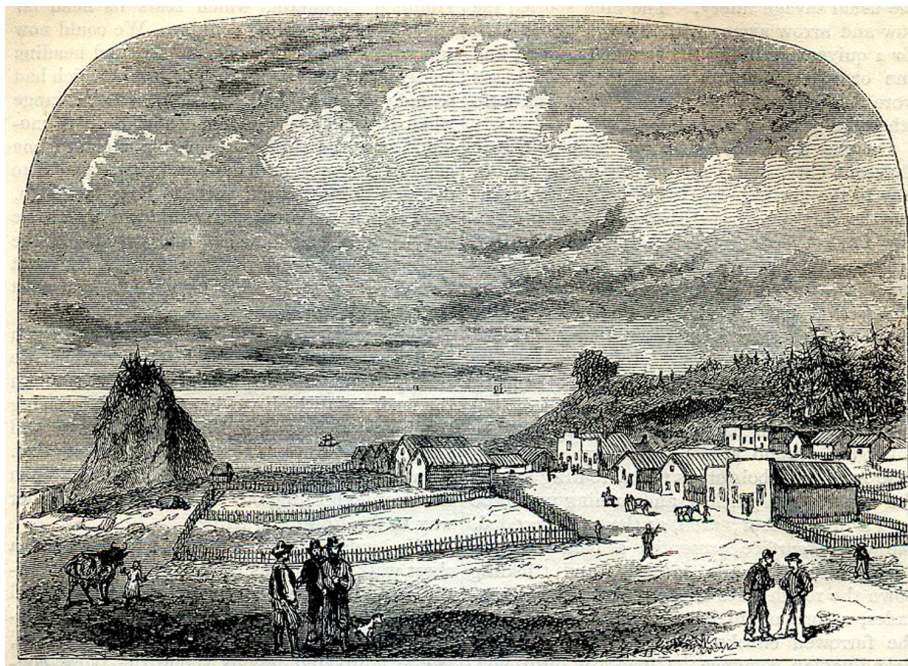
Re: Indian Mascots

by [Brody Wasson](#) - Monday, March 2, 2015, 1:39 PM

Reading the information given there seems to be a lot of bias opinion. Some want the indian mascot removed simply because they don't like it and some because they want to protect the native culture. Speaking on behalf of my self and my tribe really there doesn't seem to be any hurt in having the schools have a mascot that in reality are people that are still living today. Im a member of the coquille indian tribe, from what I've read and heard the native mascot is at least in my tribe a sign of respect that our culture still lives on today even though in the 19 century the natives were seen as a threat rather then how they are seen in the 21st century.

Below is the crest of my tribe for any who were interested and the second photo is of my natives homelands for many no one really knows what it started out like but here is living proof that really even in the 19th century natives lived just like the white men of that time





Sum of ratings: **3** (1) 3

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Native American mascots

by [Morgan Steinmetz](#) - Monday, March 2, 2015, 7:42 PM

Before reading the documents provided, my opinion regarding Indian school mascots was pretty much nonexistent because I have little to no knowledge on the topic other than the small bit I would get from stories on the news. But now that I have read the article in The Register Guard and the decision for the state of Oregon, I have a little more knowledge and now I have more of an opinion.

I honestly disagree with the whole controversy. I personally don't think that schools are intentionally picking Indian mascots to be harmful, racist, shameful or dehumanizing as stated in the article from usatoday. I too believe that students and especially student athletes take pride in Indian named mascots.

I would start to agree with the issue if there was more Native American tribes that expressed concern with the use of Native American Tribe names as mascots.

Something that kind of shocked me was how people that are for changing the mascots say "Indian mascots are racist, contending they reinforce stereotypes and promote bullying of Native students." (usatoday.com) I just can't see how people justify or prove that Native American students are at a higher risk for being bullied because school mascots are promoting bullying. I can say that I don't agree with the Oregon law that was passed for the school mascots.

Sum of ratings: **2** (1) 2

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No Disrespect was Intended

by [Candice Oster](#) - Monday, March 2, 2015, 7:54 PM

This subject has been a big topic in my family as my husband and my stepmom both went to The Dalles High School, on the Columbia River. It is about 10 miles west of Celilo Falls and has a very large Native American history. They were The Dalles Indians! I talked to my stepmom about her thoughts of the mascot name growing up and she said, "We always felt it was in honor of the Indians, that it was in respect of them and their history." What she shared with me is very similar to what Brenda Brainard, in the first article, shared, that even though the mascot was not ever intended to be negative or bring about any issues, it is the right time to change it based on the way the world is

today.

I like what Louie Pitt, director of government affairs and planning for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs said. "I think we have a spectrum of opinion here, from hating the mascots and seeing them as degrading and insensitive, to some people thinking of even the Washington Redskins as being an honor"

A spectrum issue is a great way to look at this. There are the two sides, radical and conservative and the in between. The changes are taking place all over the state so it seems to be that those that felt it needed a radical solution, made it happen.

The Dalles has a new mascot.

<http://highschoolsports.oregonlive.com/news/article/-3668039736778055308/the-dalles-becomes-latest-oregon-school-to-drop-native-american-mascot/>

Sum of ratings: **3** (1)

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History lives on

by [Morgan Steinmetz](#) - Friday, March 6, 2015, 10:55 PM

After reading about how you went and talked to your step mom about her opinions, it made me want to ask a family friend who's parents are half Native American and see what his opinion was, so I did. and he had the same opinion as your step mom. He too has always thought of schools that have Indian mascots as a way of showing respect towards Native American Tribes and also believes that Indian school mascots let Native Americans take pride in their past.

Sum of ratings: **1** (1)

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Re: History lives on

by [Candice Oster](#) - Saturday, March 7, 2015, 9:20 AM

Morgan,

I think it is great that you were able to get the thoughts from your family friend. My husband had many Native American friends going to school representing The Dalles Indians, they felt the same way.

So much was taken away from them, such hardships, that they are still fighting for today. The video that we saw in class Thursday that showed the remains of Native people finally being returned to their people for proper burial, was very emotional to me. This was not part of my heritage, however I feel that there is such importance in showing respect for those that went before us.

Sum of ratings: **1** (1)

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Indian Mascots: Similarities between views on American Indians today vs. 1800's

by [Jacob Brown](#) - Monday, March 2, 2015, 9:02 PM

After reading the chapter and this current article, the naked eye can definitely see some similarities but a lot of things that have changed. According to the recent articles of Indian mascots and schools today, leading to the racism question. What I personally noticed was the majority of the people today are fine, and in fact, proud to rep Native American mascots in their schools. But there is always that select few people who have a problem with it, like James Florendo from LCC. In no way do I believe that if anyone has a problem with Native Americanism it should be erased from campus. In my opinion, with history to back me up, cultures and societies go through many trends and beliefs. Back in the 1880's the majority of Americans hadn't really settled quite yet in the western territory. So, they would do anything to solidify their stamp on that territory, with their country to back them up. So you can take an educated guess and venture to say most people wanted the Indians out and the Americans to move right in, in most indiscriminant way

possible, of course. But, just like our ethnic studies creator James, there will always be people who think a lot more radically than others. The important thing to understand is that our current culture, although racism still exists, has changed the majority opinion on Indians as equal with Americans today. It's really a question of racism and pride when the mascots come in mind. The majority of people like the mascots in their current states, and the local tribes don't seem to have a problem with it, in fact, most seem to support it. So why then is it so blown up in our current society, if only a minority support the non-popular argument?

Sum of ratings:3 (1) 3

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Maybe its just easier(yet more expensive)

by [Michael Leopold](#) - Monday, March 2, 2015, 9:25 PM

The Letter to the editor brings up a valid point about ALL mascots, when taken in that light, could be construed as derogatory toward one group of people or another. Anytime a likeness is used as a team icon, mascot, or otherwise, it can run the risk of being potentially offensive. But, with that being said, I have to agree with Brenda Brainard when she said that if even one person has taken offense to mascots referencing their culture, it should be removed. The exception to this case would be if the name being used has been endorsed by the group being represented, such as in the case of Florida State University, where the Seminole Tribe gave their okay.

I read an article recently about how expensive it would be to change the mascot of a school. From rebranding of school buildings and sports uniforms, to replacing all school letterheads and the subsequent cost of finding, and having drawn, new logos and mascots. Should the cost of changing be a deterrent? No. But schools and sports teams, whom are presumably not trying to offend the cultures they portray in sport or otherwise, should not have to incur a huge financial burden all at once to take these down. In the added article about Oregon schools from 2012, the state gave the schools whom have had Native American mascots 5 years to make the change, and I think that this is a great compromise.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) 2

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Re: Maybe its just easier(yet more expensive)

by [Morgan Steinmetz](#) - Monday, March 2, 2015, 10:58 PM

You brought up a very good point about the cost of changing all of the Native American mascots. I can't imagine not only how much money it would cost, but also how much labor it would take which adds to the cost of replacing signs, uniforms, gym flooring etc.. Forcing schools to change their mascot would take money away from other areas of the school, like the education side.

In the article about Oregon's decision as a state to ban all Native American mascots, it says that the schools have 5 years to comply or they face a chance of losing their state funding. What if the schools can't afford to replace everything, then whats going to happen to them? Are they just going to lose their state funding and no other option is going to be provided to them? And that is just another reason why I don't agree with the Oregon ban.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 1

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Re: Maybe its just easier(yet more expensive)

by [Trinidad Delgado](#) - Friday, March 6, 2015, 10:15 PM

I would have never thought about the budget cost for changing a Native American mascot. To think of the budget cost, schools would have to be funded by other schools to pay for the cost. I think the school would have no choice, but to change the mascot, possibly facing charges or lose school funding. Additionally, I

do not think a school should lose its funding over a mascot, which I too cannot agree to the Oregon mascot ban.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Maybe its just easier(yet more expensive)

by [Michael Leopold](#) - Saturday, March 7, 2015, 7:23 PM

The money issue is definitely a concern, but after reading Brody Wasson's post at the bottom i feel as though money should not be the issue. He points out that many other groups are legally protected from having their cultures or races characterized and put on display, so why shouldnt the native populations of this country be afforded those same rights? I'm for the Oregon ban, not because I want to see more of our schools go broke, but because as Oregonians I feel our compassion toward others far outweighs the monetary implications of achieving that level of integrity.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Indian Mascots

by [Jacob Westbrook](#) - Tuesday, March 3, 2015, 5:53 PM

Based on the reading and other student replies, it's hard to really take a firm side on either banning or openly allowing potentially offensive/disrespectful stereotypes as mascots. I'm not really sure what the answer is to this, but I do have a related story from high school about it. My high school was in a town that was right near the Oregon/California border, and there are several Native American tribes that live in the area. The subject of offensive Indian mascots came up in history class (our mascot wasn't an indian, but a nearby school's was), and one of my classmates was from a Native family. Naturally, the class wanted to get his family's opinion on the matter, and it turns out that the local tribe didn't actually find those mascots all that offensive. Admittedly, they didn't think they were being honored by them at all, but they didn't have any real complaints about their use. On the other hand, I had a Sociology professor last year who made an interesting analogy, describing how if the tables were reversed and the mascots were people dressed as the Pope waving crosses around at football games, a lot of people would be really upset.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Indian Mascots

by [Carson Raz](#) - Friday, March 6, 2015, 4:38 PM

Yeah I think it's all just a matter of the mascot itself. If it's clearly offensive like "The Redskins" or "savages" then it should be changed or perhaps voted on by the community. If it's not as offensive or none at all like "war eagles" or "arrow heads" then it should be allowed is my stance on it. I guess I just think the members of the community for the school should get to vote on it.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Keeping History Hidden

by [Candice Oster](#) - Wednesday, March 4, 2015, 10:45 AM

Thinking more about the Oregon Ban, I am wondering if some of the reason for not having Oregon schools with Native American named mascots is a way to put history out of sight. I think of LCC's website and how there is no mention of Joseph Lane's "past" on the school website. This week we learned about Leland Stanford and how his treatment of the Chinese workers for the Central Pacific Railroad is not put up on Stanford University's site either. Even as high up as the Democratic Party site we no longer get to

see the slave holding presidential involvement that was true to our countries history. Could this be another way of keeping the history of the Native American's put away so it is not "out there" to even have to remember? I know this seems far fetched as an actual agenda, however, do you think it could be a side effect of changing these mascots?

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Keeping History Hidden

by [Carson Raz](#) - Friday, March 6, 2015, 4:34 PM

I see what you're saying here, that perhaps getting rid of all the Native American themed mascots could make people forget about the natives? This may be true but I feel like American public schools don't really shed much of a light on the natives either (even the one with Native themed mascots). I can't remember a class I had before college where we talked about what actually happened to the natives. I mean we even have a "Columbus Day" to celebrate the discovery of America. The reality though is that this place was already discovered. I think if schools started teaching the truth other people would also think that using these types of mascots is wrong. Not all the time is does it have to be wrong but a name like "redskins" clearly isn't respectful but "warriors" isn't as bad.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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History Hidden

by [Morgan Steinmetz](#) - Friday, March 6, 2015, 10:42 PM

I never even thought about it like that! But you make an extremely valid point. It seems like anything bad that happens in the world, people like to kind of just try and sweep it under the rug and almost pretend it didn't happen. Like you said, it might be a completely far fetched idea or claim to make, but it is a claim that I agree with and would back up. Getting rid of Native American mascots could be the way in which the country is trying to make the Native American history appear as if it never even happened.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Indian Mascots why or why not

by [Brody Wasson](#) - Saturday, March 7, 2015, 5:15 PM

After reading both articles and thinking of this problem through a natives eyes I finally came across that Its not a problem but others wanting us gone. All across the country the names and images of Native Americans are being removed from sports teams and schools. While we or at least I am tired of being told how to think, its also important to note the reasons for these changes. Once understood, it becomes very clear that it is only a wonder it took this long to change them. Many State School Boards have taken a strong stand against the mascot and team names. If the school boards must show respect to all other groups, why should they be permitted to dismiss political correctness when it applies to Native people. Why are Native people the only race of people that are permitted to be used as mascots. Interchange the name of any race with the Indians and it immediately becomes clear that we can not have teams called The Negroes, The Asians or The Jews. There is a big difference between naming a team after a tribe and naming it after a character or even a whole race of people.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Indian Mascots why or why not

by [Michael Leopold](#) - Saturday, March 7, 2015, 7:19 PM

I completely agree with you. We have moral protections against discriminating against

many other races and groups of people, and those same protections should be afforded to the native population! However, how do you feel about the example given of Florida State University and it's "permission" from the Seminole nation to use their name and likeness as it's mascot? Do you agree that if "permission" is granted that they should be allowed, or do feel that the name should be changed anyway if nothing more than to avoid any future offensiveness?

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Native American Mascots

by [Andrew Kline](#) - Saturday, March 7, 2015, 9:59 PM

Issues like this can be very sensitive and much be handled very carefully. Either option could prove to carry many cons. Many students, mostly athletes look to their mascots as symbols of their fighting spirit and school spirit. These students devote their young lives to the sport they love, when you take that symbol from them chances are they won't be too happy with being forced to make a new one. I also though don't believe it is right to simple ignore the Native American students that feel offended. Sometimes right morals though always don't lead to change. Like said in The Register-Guard article by Anne Williams. None of the leaders of the Native American tribes sent a response. Also with all the pressure from the community, change does not seem likely. In my opinion the best solution is to not just simply take away all Indian mascots. The schools should better educate the students and find a more educational way to present their mascots and find a way that they can keep their beloved mascots and not be offensive about it.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Better education

by [Morgan Steinmetz](#) - Sunday, March 8, 2015, 12:12 AM

I agree with you 100% about how schools should better educate their students on Native American history. I think that if students were more educated on topics regarding the history of our Native Americans, the "poor" portrayal of Indians as mascots would decrease greatly and even more students would take pride in their schools mascot.

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