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Native American Mascots

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Native American Mascots

by [Joe Escobar](#) – Friday, February 26, 2016, 10:06 PM

This thread is for discussions on the Native American Mascots topic.

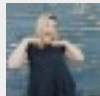
To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post. To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

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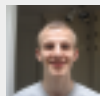
Re: Native American Mascots

by [Emma Knutson](#) – Monday, February 29, 2016, 9:55 AM

It is sad to think that us, being americans, are taking credit for something we did not find. The Native Americans were the first to be on this land and the first to create a culture on this land. By us, now having the Native Americans be a representation of a mascot, is very sad. The founding fathers of the United States came over and pushed the Native Americans to the west, wiping the out and sending them away, yet now we show them as a representation of who we all are?? That just baffles me because we brainwashed them into doing things to better ourselves and not their lives. Now we are showing their culture as a larger part of our history, which it is, but not the way it actually was.

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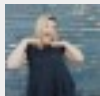
I don't see much of a problem with them

by [Robert Driver](#) – Monday, February 29, 2016, 9:43 PM

I don't personally see these mascots as being a problem (if they aren't making fun of Native Americans), but then again, I don't really care much about sports or have much of a stake in this whole matter. If a majority of Native Americans were to say that they found Native American mascots offensive, I would agree that they would need to be removed. It really is their decision. It would be ridiculous to ban something "racist" when the people it portrays aren't offended by it, just like it would be racism to allow something that "honors" a people group that is offended or embarrassed by that depiction of them. Perhaps it would be best for people to work with the Native American tribes to create or redesign Native American mascots that aren't offensive or embarrassing for them.

Sum of ratings: [2 \(1\)](#)

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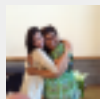
Re: I don't see much of a problem with them

by [Emma Knutson](#) – Tuesday, March 1, 2016, 4:53 PM

I have to agree with what you are saying. There are some mascots that seem to be offensive and some aren't. It would really depend on the majority of the offensive mascot instead of the entire Native American themed mascots as a whole. Some are like what you said, an honor where some are disrespectful.

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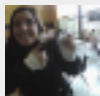
Native American Mascots

by [Angelina Rivas](#) – Monday, February 29, 2016, 10:18 PM

I honestly believe that it is perfectly fine to use native American culture as a mascot. As long as no one gets hurt or deeply offended by the portrayal of the mascot. The mascot itself can speak for the board of the school and the type of community in the said school or team. There shouldn't be any problem other than remaining respectful to the history of native Americans and understanding what they as a population went through in the U.S. this is what I honestly believe in.

Sum of ratings: [1 \(1\)](#)

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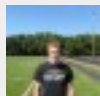
Re: Native American Mascots

by [Jordan Hevern](#) – Wednesday, March 2, 2016, 8:47 PM

In your opinion, should a mascot that is representing a native culture be taken away or changed if the fans or the people who interpret it, make it into something its not? Because there are people who take things very differently and like to make things bad when they are suppose to be viewed as un uplifting or inspirational thing.

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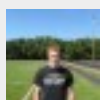
Re: Who Am I to Tell Native Americans How to Feel

by [Jeb Harper](#) – Tuesday, March 1, 2016, 12:06 AM

My personal opinion has always been that mascots are a representation of history and that its always cool to hear the story behind why that team has that mascot. However, if a certain group of people are feeling offended who am I to tell that person they shouldn't feel that way. These are human beings and their feelings should be considered more important than a silly team logo/name. Having said that, I also thought the point Mr. Steve Bowers brought up in the article showing support for these mascots was intriguing. He pretty much pointed out that their are many mascots out there that can be looked at as racist as well, such as an Irish mascot or a Celtics mascot. I think that the reason some Native Americans are feeling so strongly on this issue has to do with the history of Native Americans and how they were treated. This is a unique situation, and so in this case I believe we should show empathy and just remove any mascots that offends them.

Sum of ratings: [2 \(1\)](#)

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Re: LSU Tigers

by [Jeb Harper](#) – Tuesday, March 1, 2016, 12:34 AM

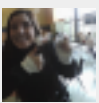
I just wanted to share a super interesting fact that maybe some of you already knew, but that I thought would go perfect with this class considering the time period and era we're learning about. Many of you I'm sure have heard of Louisiana State University (LSU), well their mascot, the Tigers, didn't originally represent the animal, but derives from the Louisiana brigade that was nicknamed the "Louisiana Tigers", who fought for the confederate army during the civil war. They were also known as "Lee's Tigers". Pretty interesting and I'm actually surprised its not more of a controversy these days.

Sum of ratings: [1 \(1\)](#)

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Is it degrading or just spirit

by [Jordan Hevern](#) – Tuesday, March 1, 2016, 2:47 PM



Well, after reading the articles, I have mixed feelings. I understand using a mascot with as a native character can be disheartening and mocking, but when you think of a mascot, you normally picture supportive, enthusiastic character who get people excited. They do funny things with the crowd, they bring spirit to whatever team/school they are rooting for. Like the article said about Roseburg, the natives support it, they never had hardship that was from having a mascot being an indian."We see it as kind of more like a recognition, in a way". says Sue Shaffer, tribal chairwoman of the Cow Creek Band. So In that case I see how it is not a bad thing. Now when you take the picture where there is a fat man, dressed up in "indian" attire, with the word Savage painted on his stomach. Now thats degrading. Thats not showing support, thats showing what they were called from white men.

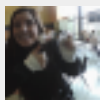
My step mothers, who had indian blood married a white man, and had two kids. Since they have indian blood in them, their tribe that they came from gives them money until they are 18, and will pay for their college. Now knowing that, and I see that they don't practice any indian culture. Do they have the right to get upset about a mascot representing their tribe? I have no right to yes or no on that. Because if they feel like that its offensive than they have the right to speak up.

Its hard to say that if one person is offended than a whole organization should change, because people could use that in any case. Example, people who don't eat meat, and think its cruel to use animals for food, they complain to a local market that they feel its offensive they have to come that market and see the dead meat in stock. Would that market have to stop selling meat? When it comes to handling the situation, it should be looked at in different ways. Is what the mascot is doing actually degrading anyone? Do they use it as a hate crime? Are people being hurt physically by this mascot? If they are than, yes they need to do something about, but that is such a touchy subject, I would not want to make a executive decision.

There is a road that takes you from medford to klamath falls, and its called dead indian road. Klamath falls, Chiliquin, Bly, are heavily populated by klamath falls, now having a road named dead indian, could be considered degrading. Now where do you draw the line there? Is dead indian to far, what if they changed it to just "Indian" road. Would that ease peoples mind? Its hard to say because I don't know how many indians that actually live there still study or practice their native culture.

Sum of ratings:3 (1) 3

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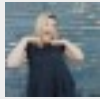
Re: Is it degrading or just spirit

by [Jordan Hevern](#) - Wednesday, March 2, 2016, 8:43 PM

In my last paragraph, I meant to say "heavily populated Indians"

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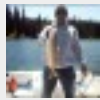
Re: Is it degrading or just spirit

by [Emma Knutson](#) - Friday, March 4, 2016, 9:49 AM

What you mentioned about having them practice their native culture is very valid. I think there is a line between having a say in something and not having a say in something just because of the blood you have. I know people with Native American blood that like you stated above, get money every year and have their school payed for, but they don't practice the culture of their blood. Then there is another family I know that live their day to day lives in their native culture. But I would most defiantly have to agree with you because how can you justify having the blood and not representing what your culture really is, rather they use it because they qualify as a native. There is a fine line between whether or not something is offensive are they just saying its offensive to show that they are representing their culture, or are they actually offended to the point where something needs to happen?

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Where does it end?

by Andrew Kilmer – Tuesday, March 1, 2016, 6:08 PM

I will first acknowledge, after reading the chapter and knowing what I do of our past, the Native Americans of our country were robbed of their land and culture without any doubt. Our government rarely kept any promise they made to the tribes and the Indians were brutally pushed out of the way for white expansion.

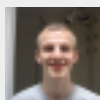
Where do we stop though? Should be take the racist Lincoln off the penny? For that matter what about all the schools named after slave owning presidents? All confederate states have a tarnished past, should be rename them also. You can find historical issues of violence, racism, murder, and greed in Songs, Schools, Sports teams, and Cities we have established. They are all a part of our history and simple changing a mascot does not take that history away, it hides it.

The students in these schools feel a connection to their mascot, just as we as Americans feel a connection to the past. We get this connection through the words we use to "stamp" people and events in history. If we are to hide our past, we will have lost those connections and the meaning they once represented.

The article had a quote that said “if one native American student is offended then the mascot should be changed”. If we are to adopt this philosophy, then I suggest we get rid of every word that offends people. We will have nothing left to remember.

Sum of ratings:3 (1) 3

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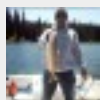
Re: Where does it end?

by Robert Driver – Wednesday, March 2, 2016, 5:19 PM

If we removed everything that could offend everyone, not only would we be left with very little, but we would doubtless offend plenty of people by not acknowledging things they’re proud of, such as their cultural heritage. And if we remove every bit of Native American history except for information in the history books, keeping only the tragic story of how their culture was lost, are we any better than the people back in the 1870’s, 80’s, and 90’s who, with governmental support, tried to force Native Americans to give up their culture? I don’t think many Native Americans would be very grateful to us for doing that. I think people who are worried about Native American mascots being offensive should focus on redesigning Native American mascots so that they’re historically accurate and not offensive rather than just mindlessly erasing things they think are offensive.

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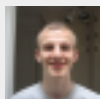
Reservation School Mascots

by Andrew Kilmer – Friday, March 4, 2016, 2:49 PM

I'm not sure if I'm making a point or asking a question. I searched for school mascots that tribal school use. The first three school mascots I found where, Chiefs, Braves, and Warriors. I can understand that for a Native American school, the use of these mascots should be fine, but the main argument I read about says the use of these stereotypes is racist. Should reservation schools be allowed to promote what they say is morally wrong for others?

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Re: Reservation School Mascots

by Robert Driver – Saturday, March 5, 2016, 5:50 PM

I don’t think that Native American mascots are really very racist. According to Dictionary.com, racism is “1. A belief or doctrine that inherent differences among the various human racial groups determine cultural or individual achievement, usually involving the idea that one's own race is superior and has the right to dominate others or that a particular racial group is inferior to the others. 2. A policy, system of government,

etc., based upon or fostering such a doctrine;discrimination. 3. Hatred or intolerance of another race or other races.” Native American mascots aren’t racist if they aren’t portraying the Native Americans as inferior (I don’t think many of them portray the Native Americans as inferior, especially if the Native Americans approve of them). If anything, they’re favoring Native Americans (no other minority group gets to be represented by school mascots). If we were really intolerant of Native Americans, we wouldn’t have so many mascots depicting them. Perhaps it’s the people who are trying to get rid of the Native American mascots that are the really intolerant ones. And finally, the hatred involved with Native American mascots is the hatred of one sports team by the fans of another sports team, which is an effect of sports teams – it’ll occur no matter which mascots you chose. So I would say that Native American mascots aren’t racist.

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