

### DWA Assessment

During the National Anthem, Colin Kaepernick took a knee due to showing his message of racial injustice. After he took this stance several more players began to join this trend. However, there was a lot of controversial drama whether this situation was appropriate and or disrespectful. The writers of the sources "Kaepernick and Athletes have a right to protest" and "An ongoing issue" agree with this as well. The athletes stance are not disrespectful based upon that they have the right to protest, they were paying their respect to America and the flag itself and they were just trying to spread a positive message to the people.

Starting off, everyone in the U.S has a guaranteed right to express their speech, press, religion, petition, and assembly. In which they took to their use. Since they have the right to protest they did it in a form that was calm and quiet. If their form of expression does not involve issues with the police, then it isn't meant to be disrespectful. The author of the source titled "Cornell Law School" revises the rights saying "The first amendment guarantees freedoms of concerning religion, expression, assembly, and the right to petition". These athletes were doing just that so it is not disrespecting anyone, they are just expressing their rights. In addition, the way they portrayed their freedom was fair and acceptable as the author of the source "Kaepernick and athletes have a right to protest" illustrates saying "Not standing for the National Anthem is a legal form of peaceful protest, which is a first amendment right".

Most people forget to understand that they have these rights and completely misinterpret those who express them freely. Plus, being in all of these athlete's position go way past most people's minds. Usually, they always depend on referring it as an "offensive act" but in reality this statement is false. The act that they did before the was not supposed to harm anyone in any way. Nor disrespect those who disagree with his decision. A similar situation like this occurred with my uncle as he didn't go to church like the rest of my family, however he disrespects the religion of people who were in it. Therefore, as long as it doesn't disrespect the people who believe or are apart of a certain group. Then they shouldn't be accused for being disrespectful. Which leads into how these athletes still kept their respects. Moreover, the athletes were commonly being gossiped on how their action towards the national Anthem. But because of this the population was not giving them a say in what they truly thought of others who were in America. Brandon Marshall peacefully explained saying "I'm not against the military or police or America at all". How was this seen as offensive if they admitted they weren't against America? They should not be accused right off the bat because several statements people say about them could be untrue. A statement similar to this occurs again presented by the 49ers "In respecting such American principles as freedom of religion and freedom of expression, we recognize the right of an individual to choose and participate; or not, in our celebration of the national Anthem". Therefore, their commitment in kneeling during this should be excused. They are still respecting to everyone and America in general. But no one seemed to ask why they took a knee, one thing for sure however is they did it to spread an awareness message.

Similarly, as mentioned before the NFL players who participated to take a knee during the National Anthem were doing it in respectful was for a good cause. Their reasoning behind it it was because they were against racial injustice. Seth Devalve was the first white player to take a knee due to also believing America was unequal.

He then later claimed saying "we wanted to draw attention to the fact that theres things in this country that still needs to change" . These athletes were simply trying

to spread awareness and this message around to the people. It can't be a disrespectful act if they are doing it for a good purpose. Jabrill Peppers agrred with this decision as he says "There's alot of racial and social injustices in the world that are going on right now. We just decided to take a knee and pray for the people who

have been affected and just pray for the world in general". It is not fair to these people who want to help support these messages but then later get accused of it for being offensive. What these people did was a a very wise decision, but it was quickly misunderstood. Especially by those who don't apply it. They weren't trying to harm

anyone's views, in fact they were respecting it more than disrespecting.

To close it off, the actions these NFL players have done was not meant to offend anyone. They had the right to silent protest and to express a positive message. Some

will agree will some may not. There are still several thoughts whether they should continue or not. One decision for sure is that they will still keep the legacy for future

games and generations.