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Ring 4b: Equality

Quote: "Sport is a great equalizer that can build bridges, transcend borders and cultures, and render even the fiercest conflicts temporarily irrelevant." Richard Attias

- Equality
- Paralympics
- Women in Sport
- Sexual Orientation
- Gender
- Socioeconomic Conditions
- Political Activism at the Olympics
- Definitions

Slide #4-5: Equality

Slide #5



VIDEO: Love over bias 1m32

Everyone has basic rights and emotional needs regardless of their race, religion, ability or sexuality. The idea of commonality, despite our differences, means creating an equal society, which promotes opportunities for all. We are all different but uniqueness is a beautiful thing. If we were all the same the world would be a much less advanced and beautiful place.

Slide #6



CLASS QUESTIONS: Why is equality important? What are some physical and social barriers that people face? What can you do to help someone facing barriers? How do you think someone that is not being treated equally feels?

Slide #6-9: Paralympics

Slide #6



VIDEOS: We are the Superhumans ~ 3mins13sec
#WeThe15 ~1m51sec



CLASS ACTIVITY: Paralympic Sport acts as an agent for change to break down social barriers of discrimination for persons with an impairment. In small groups discuss your reactions to the two different videos you just watched. What surprised you? What do you think of the two different portrayals of paralympic athletes and people with disabilities? What do you think of the labels "Superheroes" and "Special"?

**BONUS/
RECOMMENDED:**

Rising Phoenix a Netflix film

IMPAIRMENTS ELIGIBLE FOR PARALYMPIC SPORTS:

These are the impairments considered eligible by the International Paralympic Committee. Each Sport International Federation chooses which of the impairments they'll offer competition to, and how severe the impairment must be to be considered eligible.

- Impaired muscle power . i.e. Spinal cord injury, Spina bifida
- Impaired passive range of movement i.e. Arthrogryposis
- Limb deficiency i.e. Amputation, Dysmelia
- Leg length difference
- Short Stature
- Hypertonia, Athetosis, Ataxia i.e. Cerebral palsy, Traumatic brain injury
- Vision impairment
- Intellectual impairment

Slide #10-12: Women in Sport

For a long time women were not allowed to compete in sports. Women were not allowed to compete in the Ancient Games and again when the Modern Olympics began in 1896. However, the International Olympic Committee has called the Tokyo Games the most gender equal Games of all time, with women comprising a record-breaking 49 per cent of participants. Stats on participation at the Olympics over time.



CLASS ACTIVITY:

Read about 10 women who have paved the way for equality for women in sports. Break into small groups and pick 1-2 to read about and then share with the class.



CLASS QUESTIONS:

Do women have the same opportunities as men in sport? 20 x 20 was an initiative by the Federation of Irish Sport aimed to increase the media coverage of women's sport to 20% of the sport news coverage. Is this fair? Is this enough? What do you think?

Women in Sport - Irish policy to increase the number of women in sport in Ireland.



VIDEO:

Love Sport - Never Lose the Love! ~2m38s

Slide #13: Sexual Orientation

Society has certainly progressed in accepting diversity over the past few decades but the reality is that many school and sport environments remain unwelcoming, and even unsafe, for LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Transsexual, Two Spirit, Queer and Questioning) children and youth.

Results from research in Canada found:

- Almost two thirds (64%) of LGBTQ+ students and 61% of students with LGBTQ+ parents reported that they feel unsafe at school.
- 70% of all participating students, LGBTQ+ and non- LGBTQ+, reported hearing derogatory remarks at school everyday.
- 74% of trans students, 55% of sexual minority students, and 26% of non-LGBTQ+ students reported having been verbally harassed about their gender expression.
- More than one in five (21%) LGBTQ+ students reported being physically harassed or assaulted due to their sexual orientation



CLASS QUESTION:

What can be done to make schools safer for members of the LGBTQ+ community in your school?

Gender Slide #14



VIDEO:

Caster Semenya's reaction to being banned from the Olympics in her event. Read more [here](#).

People with "differences of sex development" (DSD) that have naturally high levels of testosterone have been banned from competing at the Olympics in certain events.

A number of Transgender athletes are increasingly visible in international sport this is a separate issue that is generating a lot of discussion and debate within sport, recognising the need for inclusion while also protecting the integrity of competition.

[Read about the discussion to allow Transathletes participate in the Olympics](#)

Slide #15-16: Socioeconomic Conditions



VIDEO:

Trauma and Violence informed physical activity ~4mins



CLASS QUESTIONS:

What do you think about the video Trauma & Violence-Informed Physical Activity? There are economic and social factors that prevent people from having fair access to sport and physical exercise. What are some ways to make sport accessible to more people?

Some charitable and nonprofit organizations that aim to increase inclusivity of sport: [yellowflag.ie](#), [Sanctuary Runner](#), [SARI](#), [Show Racism the Red Card](#)

Slide #17-20: Political Activism at the Olympics

Slide #17: Sport & Politics

Slide #18



VIDEO:

Watch the story of Irish Olympian, Peter O'Connor (1906). Forced to compete for Britain instead of Ireland he won the Triple Jump= he protested the playing of the British National Anthem and the raising of the Union Jack by climbing the flagpole and waving an Irish flag —the first time that sport became politicized in an International context

The second image is a Russian gymnast who wore a Z to support Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Slide #19

Read the [story of Tommie Smith](#) and John Carlos (1968) "You can call it a protest, a demonstration, a revolution," he says. "For me, it was a cry for freedom."

Slide #19: Definitions:



CLASS ACTIVITY:

Match the words to the definition or take the quizlet. Quizlet

Answer key:

Privilege: Refers to certain social advantages, benefits, or degrees of prestige and respect that an individual has by virtue of belonging to certain social identity groups. Within Western societies, these privileged social identities—of people who have historically occupied positions of dominance over others—include whites, males, heterosexuals, Christians, and the wealthy, among others.

Socially Disadvantaged: Are those who have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice or cultural bias within society because of their identities as members of groups and without regard to their individual qualities. The social disadvantage stems from circumstances beyond their control.

Microaggression: The everyday verbal, nonverbal, and environmental slights, snubs, or insults, whether intentional or unintentional, which communicate hostile, derogatory, or negative messages to target persons based solely upon their marginalized group membership.

Refugee: Someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence.

Asylum seekers: A person who has left their home country as a political refugee and is seeking asylum in another country (refugees in waiting).

Racism: Is a system of advantage and disadvantage based on the socially constructed category of race. It exists in many forms, systemic, institutional, cultural, interpersonal/individual, covert and overt.

Slide #20

CLASS READING & DISCUSSION:



Have students pick an article to read. Discuss them in small groups or with the class. Describe a protest that you think should be allowed at the Olympic Games and explain why. Can you think of a reason why protests shouldn't be allowed? Why?