

District Writing Assessment

The most discussed thing when people talk about the NFL are the silent protests. Colin Kaepernick first started protesting by silently taking a knee to show disapproval of racism in America. Soon, many more players joined him when the Star Spangled Banner plays at NFL games. People question and argue whether his actions are good for the country. Yahoo! Sports even surveyed people about their ideas of these protests. As more NFL games are being played, more players are joining the protests, and can lead to higher disapproval. Some people believe Colin is a bad influence to America and that his protests are bad to society. They believe that NFL protesters are disrespectful to America and should be stopped. It is not disrespectful for NFL players to protest silently during the National Anthem because it is against racism, it is a form of peaceful protest, and because they are not doing anything wrong.

First of all, it is not disrespectful for NFL players to sit/knee down during the national anthem because their protests are against racism. Source A shows that Colin Kaepernick and his protest movements are against racism by his quote “I’m not gonna stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color...”. Ever since slavery was introduced to the 13 colonies, black people and other non-whites were picked on and oppressed. Even today there is still racism and segregation in America. The NFL players wanted more people to know that it still exists and hopefully it will inspire people to change America “one kneel at a time”. However, a person might say it is disrespectful because many soldiers died for our country. “Home of the free, because of the brave”, they might say, but when people get picked on of their race or color of their skin, it is not free. Soldiers did fight for the freedom of slavery, but then came segregation. It is like nothing happened, except blacks were free from

slavery. It was not just black people, though. It was everyone that was not white who were picked on. The NFL players wanted America to know this flaw. That's why it is not disrespectful.

Second, it is not disrespectful for NFL players to protest silently during the national anthem because their protests are peaceful. The First Amendment says that "The First Amendment guarantees freedom.... to [protest]". The NFL players have the right to protest because of the 1st Amendment. Congress, the people of America, or the NFL can not stop them or take their freedom away just because they are protesting. The people who do not like have to live through it. The protest is also peaceful, so there is nothing wrong about it. People might argue about it, but there was another protest about racism called "Black Lives Matter", which was a violent form of protest. We should respect and be lucky that the NFL players aren't following in the bloody footsteps of those people. If the NFL protests were a violent form, then there would be a reason to take away their freedom of protest. Unless that happens, it is not disrespectful.

Lastly, it is not disrespectful for NFL players to sit/kneel during the national anthem because they are doing nothing wrong. Source A says that "[protesters] have refused to stand during the national anthem". This is nothing bad. If the NFL players shouted hate words during the national anthem, then there would be a reason to get mad. The NFL players are just kneeling or refusing to stand. This is nothing to get mad about. Kneeling during the national anthem is nothing to get mad about because the protests have a deeper meaning than disrespecting the flag. Forms of bad ways to disrespect the flag are by saying slang words. That is why they are not disrespecting our flag and country by kneeling down during our national anthem.

In conclusion, it is not disrespectful for NFL players to “take a knee” during the national anthem as a form of silent protest because it raises awareness of racism, it is not violent, and because they are doing nothing wrong. It is important for people to know why the NFL protests are not disrespectful because it has a hidden meaning(racism). If people knew the truth, then they would support it and segregation in America will be more known and day by day racism might end in the US.