

Changing Language

NIOS Lesson 2015

Set –

Have students discuss the following questions in pairs or as a class:

- What terms of the previous generation are no longer socially acceptable?
- What changes have you seen in your lifetime?
- Why did this change happen? What prompted the change?
- What changes do you think we still need to make?

Procedure

Watch “Proud to Be Video” – Reaction to name of Washington football team

React in quick written response

- What did you think of the video clip?
- Were you aware of this controversy?
- What are your initial thoughts on the debate?

Share your reactions with a partner.

Discuss as a class.

Possible discussion questions:

- What negative impact does the current name have?
- How would it affect the team and town if that name changed?
- What reasons do some people give for wanting to keep the name? How convincing are those reasons?

Closing

Create your own #ProudToBe.

Example: #ProudToBe Dutch and Irish

#ProudToBe California native

More in depth lesson

Complete the shorter lesson and pair with additional content below.

Read either or both articles on mascot challenges and changes:

Stanford Mascot Change – Mercury News

http://www.mercurynews.com/sports/ci_26994229/name-game-washington-redskins-could-learn-from-stanford

Great article on Stanford’s change from Indian to Cardinal

NPR – High School with Arab mascot

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/codeswitch/2013/11/11/244538722/in-california-a-high-school-that-cheers-a-r-a-b-s>

Article on a Southern California high school and their controversial mascot: an Arab.

(includes audio clip from “All Things Considered”)

Watch new video clip on Washington Football

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QW_6RO_-N0

Poses the idea that Washington football is still passionate and inspiring without the racial slur

Closing

Write a letter / blogpost regarding this topic

- convince the owner or a diehard fan that the name change is a good thing
- write about your own experience with pejorative language
- reflect on how connected you feel to our high school mascot and whether you would mind a change
- debate the difference between privately owned teams and public schools – should either have offensive mascots? Neither? Why?

One more clip

Change the Mascot Reaction

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7KxUaN_-aq4

This is a great recap of news clips covering reaction to the Change the Mascot ad. It does ask for support to the group’s Kickstarter at the end, but it gives fantastic context for this conversation.