



Game Changers



NBA and WNBA Game Changers: Celebrating Women's History

Overview

This guide will help students connect with themes and topics from the NBA and WNBA Game Changers: Celebrating Women's History video, such as gender equity, Title IX, advocacy, and inclusion. Within the three sections, students can expand their thinking about the topics using inquiry questions with a rich data set, reflect on what the topics mean to them, and consider how they can apply what they've learned in a quick writing exercise.

Did You Know?

- Women's History Month originated from a weeklong celebration of women organized by a California school district in 1978. The idea spread so much that President Carter declared National Women's History Week in 1980. Seven years later, the week expanded to the entire month of March, and an annual celebration of Women's History Month began in 1987.¹
- Every Women's History Month has a theme. The 2022 Women's History Month is "Providing Healing, Promoting Hope" to recognize the different ways women have provided healing and hope to humanity.

Digging Deeper

As students learned in the video, an important space for the promotion of gender equity is in sports, even 50 years after the passage of Title IX. To help students gain a better understanding of equity in sports, share or distribute copies of the "Women, Equity, and Sports" handout.

Help students think critically about the topic by inviting them to consider a few of the following questions with the data presented in the handout.

- What would it be like if...
- How would it be different if...
- Suppose that...
- What would change if...

As students think about the questions and the data presented, choose a question or two and discuss with the class. Encourage the class to share new questions they have, observations they made, or opportunities they see to expand equity.

Reflection Questions

You can use the reflection questions below with the lens of gender equity to consider your classroom and instructional practices. Then, help students explore and reflect on these themes within their own life.

¹ <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/womens-history-month>



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For The Educator:

- How do I ensure that all students have equal opportunity to participate throughout the school day?
- How do I celebrate the accomplishments of the females in my classroom?
- Is there a balance of male and female authors and characters in my classroom library?
- Am I sharing stories of important female figures, both past and present, within my content area?
- How do I discourage gender stereotypes in my classroom?

For The Student:

- Have you ever seen someone treated unfairly because of their gender? What happened? How did it make you feel?
- What is gender equity? Why is gender equity important for everyone and not just women?
- Why is it important to speak up and advocate for issues that are important to you?
- If you were to create one positive change in your classroom or community, what would you choose to focus on? What is the first step you could take toward making this happen?

Quick Write

Think about the women in today's world—both those you know and those you have learned about. Whom do you find most inspiring and why? What can you learn from this individual as you try to create your own positive changes?



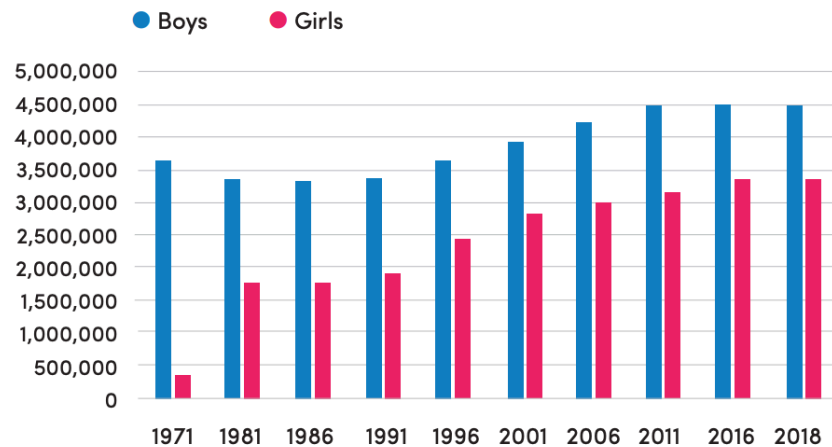
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“Women, Equity, and Sports” Handout

Access for girls and women is on the rise but gaps still persist.

High School Athletics Participation Survey Totals 1971-72 to 2018-19



Source: National Federation of State High School Associations 2018-19 Athletics Participation Summary

Cost
73%

73% of female leaders who said the greatest concern regarding girls' participation in sport was the ability of their parents to afford participation fees. (Female Leaders in Sport Survey, 2019)

Gender role beliefs
32%

32% of girls who report that sometimes boys make fun of them or make them feel uncomfortable when they practice sports. (Zarrett, Cooky, & Veliz, 2019)

Lack of role models
77%

77% of female leaders who reported that lack of exposure to female coaches as role models limits girls' sports participation. (Female Leaders in Sport Survey, 2019)

Media coverage
3.2%

3.2% of sports media coverage devoted to women's sports. (Cooky, Messner, and Musto, 2015)

Media coverage
70%

70% of female leaders who say lack of media coverage limits girls' sport participation. (Female Leaders in Sport Survey, 2019)

Source:
[Women's Sports Foundation Quick Facts](#)