

Colin Kaepernick and 'taking a knee' movement.



On August 26th 2016 during a pre season game, San Francisco 49er's quarterback Colin Kaepernick took a knee during the playing of the American national anthem. He cited racial inequality and police brutality for the main cause of his actions. Kaepernick provoked a huge reaction across America by this which was also coming to terms with the Black Lives Matter movement, resulting in division over his actions. During his campaign to become President Donald Trump openly attacked him and others for taking a knee as disrespectful to the flag and US armed forces, while other accused Kaepernick of using the protest to raise his profile. Kaepernick's actions have recently come back to the media's attention following the death of George Floyd, the demonstrations that followed and comments by high level NFL players and the league's commissioner.

Following the death and protests surrounding the death of George Floyd and the recent media attention once again given to the 'taking a knee' protest during the United States national anthem, we would like you to research;

- How did it start?
- Where and when did it take place?
- Who were some of the key people involved?
- What was its conclusion?
- Did any laws or policies change, or were new ones introduced?
- Do you support Kaepernick's actions or should the flag / anthem always be respected to honour the military and fallen soldiers?

- **Recommended reading / viewing.**
 - Short document reviewing the protest of Colin Kaepernick - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Go8cjtNlhZY>
 - A recent article from prominent quarterback Drew Brees commenting on how it is disrespectful to 'take a knee' during the national anthem - <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2020/jun/03/drew-brees-new-orleans-saints-george-floyd-anthem-protests-nfl-football>
 - Reaction from President Trump to the recent debate on this - <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2020/jun/08/donald-trump-nfl-national-anthem-protests-roger-goode/>

- NFL commissioner Roger Goodell apologising for the NFL's reaction to the protest.
<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2020/jun/05/roger-goodell-nfl-sorry-kneeling-protests-kaepernick>