

TITLE IX AND WOMEN'S SPORTS

This lesson will introduce students to the history of Title IX and what protections it introduced for female athletes.

CONTEXT

Title IX brought about important changes and protections in the opportunities girls and women are offered in sport. Students will take a look at what Title IX is and what it means in their lives. Then, they will learn about a real-life example of female athletes taking a stand for equal treatment in the world of professional sports.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

1. Explain what Title IX is.
2. Develop their research skills by learning more about a case study of equality in sport.
3. Begin to understand a few of the systemic challenges faced by female professional athletes.

MATERIALS

- Computer with internet connection for research in extension activity.
- What is Title IX? worksheet

PROCEDURE

- Ask students if they know what Title IX is and discuss what they think it means. Using the provided worksheet have them fill in their impressions under question 1.
- Teach students what Title IX is, and how their initial thoughts may be similar or different to what it means. You may want to use the following resources to help explain Title IX: [What is Title IX?](#) or the info graphic found at [Title IX Overview](#). A timeline of Title IX's history is also useful, and can be found at [History of Title IX](#). Have students continue the worksheet as the lesson continues.
- Ask students to raise their hands if they've ever attended a professional sports match or seen one on TV. Have them keep their hands raised if they were watching female athletes. As a class, reflect on what this means.

- Instruct students to pick the 2017 US Women's Hockey Team boycott or the US Women's National Soccer Team's class action equal pay lawsuit to research. Students can use the worksheet to guide their learning.
- Have students share what they learned in their research. Focus on why teams were taking action.
- Recall the previous survey question of how many students have watched professional female athletes compete, and link how we think about women's sports with real-life impacts on teams.

