

Podium Protest

The world as we know it today, where people can live in **harmony** alongside each other, has only been a recent thing. Until the last few decades, people all over the world have experienced **discrimination** because of the colour of their skin or their **race**. One such place where discrimination has happened for a very long time is in the United States of America (USA).

America has a long history of **racial inequality**. Although there were 4.8 million black people in the United States in 1870, they were **underrepresented**, **oppressed** and were treated like a second class citizen. Even in 1865 when slavery was **abolished**, the quality of life for a black person was worse than for a white person. More recently, in 2007, it was reported that there was 40.7 million black or mixed race people living in the USA, and rights have **drastically** improved since the 1800s. This was a long journey for Americans though, and did not happen overnight. In fact most **advancements** of black **equality** have happened recently.

In 1965, a law was finally passed in the USA that meant that a black American could now vote. Although times were changing, black people still lived in poor conditions. Firstly, people were divided into three main groups. You were either *white*, *black* or *coloured* (mixed race). You were given an identity card saying which group you belonged to. In 1959, a new group was added called *Asians*; again you had to carry an ID card to say which group you belonged to. The law also said that different racial groups could not mix. For example, if you were black and your friend was white, you were not allowed to meet up in public and hang out.

A Stand; A Silent Protest

In 1968, a professor who worked for the Olympic Project for Human Rights, wanted black athletes to **boycott** the Olympic Games. Two black American athletes, Tommie Smith and John Carlos, attended the games and won gold and bronze medals respectively, for their running event. When they were invited up onto the podium to collect their medals, they made a silent **protest**. All the way through the American anthem they held their fists in the air, with a gloved hand. They had their heads down and nothing on their feet. They both also wore human rights badges on their jackets. The world, who was watching the Olympic Games, were forced to listen, if only for a brief time. This was called the Black Power Salute. The other



athlete on the podium was Australian athlete Peter Norman. He knew that the protest was going to happen and joined in by wearing a human rights badge to show his support. Peter Norman wanted to join in because he hated the White Australia Policy that would **exclude** certain groups from Australia. **Subsequently**, they were booed off the podium by the crowd.

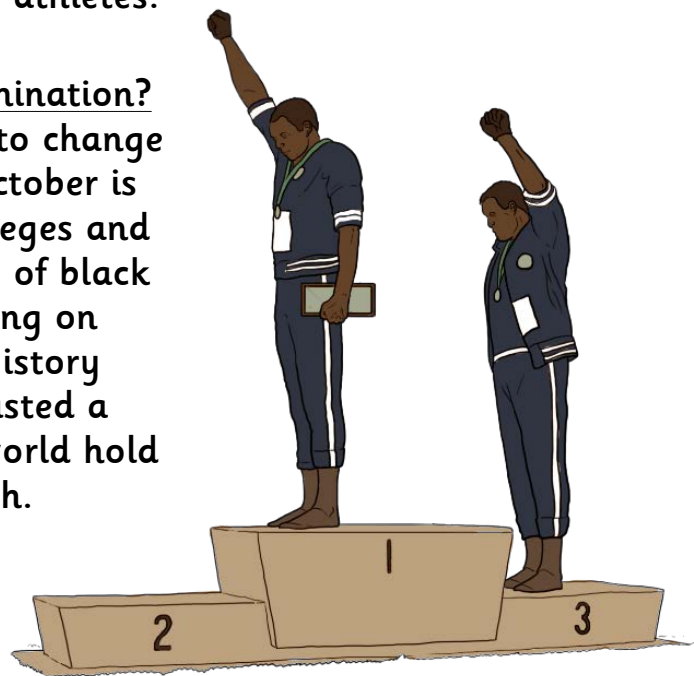
The International Olympic **Committee** (IOC) were mad with the men. They did not want politics brought to the event. They demanded that Smith and Carlos be banned from competing, but the US Olympic Committee refused. Eventually, Smith and Carlos were banned because the IOC threatened the US team; no runners could compete unless the two men were banned from running. Peter Norman was also banned by his country, Australia, for his part in the protest.

After the 1968 Olympic Games, Smith and Carlos were **criticised** by the American sports groups. When the two men got back home, they and their families experienced hate crimes and even death threats! They both experienced hard times in their careers after the protest. They were only recognised for their efforts in 2008, 40 years after making their point to the world! They were awarded an Arthur Ashe Courage Award at the 2008 ESPY (Excellence in Sports Performance Yearly) Awards honouring their action at the 1968 games.

There are many statues of Tommie Smith and John Carlos around the world now to celebrate their protest and thank them for what they risked in order to get people thinking about the rights of black athletes.

What can be done to prevent race discrimination?

Many countries are making huge efforts to change their ways and promote race equality. October is Black History Month, where schools, colleges and the media will focus on the achievements of black people throughout time, as well as focusing on how to challenge discrimination. Black History Month started in America in 1926 and lasted a week; now many countries all over the world hold some form of Black History Day or Month.



How do you think the athletes felt when they were booed off the podium? Why?

Why do you think the IOC wanted the athletes banned after the protest?

How do you think black people would have felt when they heard the news about the athletes being booed?

What feature is used in the title *Podium Protest*?

In what order is the report written?

Why has the author chosen the title *Podium Protest*? Can you think of another suitable title?

Below is an extract from the text.

They were only recognised for their efforts in 2008, 40 years after making their point to the world!

a) How is the word 'only' used in sentence above?

b) Why has the author use an exclamation mark in the sentence?

What were the names of the people who made a podium protest?

What was the podium protest called?

If you could meet any of the three men who made the podium protest, what would you ask them?

What feature is used in the sentence below?

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) were mad with the men.

Podium Protest – Vocab 1

Write the meaning of each of the words.

harmony _____

discrimination _____

race _____

racial inequality _____

underrepresented _____

oppressed _____

abolished _____

drastically _____

advancements _____

equality _____

boycott _____

protest _____

exclude _____

subsequently _____

committee _____

criticised _____

Podium Protest – Vocab 2

The words below have been chopped up. Put them back together again and write them underneath.

ressed	ony	comm	lude
equ	abol	opp	ality
exc	ittee	ination	discrim
harm	criti	ished	cised

The words have been scrambled up. Find out what they are using the clues.

ctotyob _____ withdraw from a big event

bestqusylen _____ afterwards

ttseopr _____ a statement or action that shows you strongly disagree with something

cxeduel _____ not be included, not allowed to join in with the majority

Match the word to its antonym.

equality	include
oppressed	praised
criticised	liberated
exclude	inequality

Podium Protest – SPAG

Choose the best connective from the box to complete the sentences below.

The IOC wanted to ban the athletes _____ the US committee did not.

The athletes were barefoot _____ to wearing gloves on their hands.

They had good reason to protest _____ the crowd at the Olympic Games disagreed.

He upset a lot of people, _____ they booed at him.

consequently

however

whereas

in addition

Rewrite the sentences below adding in a subordinate clause.

Tommie Smith went to the Olympics.

They held up their hands in a fist.

Black people were oppressed.

Rewrite the sentences below adding in contractions.

He has won the bronze medal at the Olympic Games!

They have now been banned from the sport.

Podium Protest – Oral Teacher Questions

How do you think the athletes felt when they were booed off the podium? **Personal response. Look for emotions words. Student must justify their response.**

Why do you think the IOC wanted the athletes banned after the protest? **Because they thought the athletes were wrong to protest.**

How do you think black people would have felt when they heard the news about the athletes being booed? **Personal response. Look for emotions words. Student must justify their response.**

What feature is used in the title *Podium Protest*? **Alliteration**

In what order is the report written? **Chronological**

Why has the author chosen the title *Podium Protest*? Can you think of another suitable title? **It is catchy and is related to the text. Student to give suitable titles linked to the content of the text.**

Below is an extract from the text.

They were only recognised for their efforts in 2008, 40 years after making their point to the world!

- How is the word 'only' used in sentence above? **It is used as an adjective for effect.**
- Why has the author use an exclamation mark in the sentence? **It is a shocking statement.**

What were the names of the people who made a podium protest? **Tommie Smith, John Carlos and Peter Norman**

What was the podium protest called? **Black Power Salute**

If you could meet any of the three men who made the podium protest, what would you ask them? **Personal response.**

What feature is used in the sentence below?

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) were mad with the men.

Parenthesis

Write the meaning of each of the words.

harmony – to be in agreement

discrimination – treating people differently because of race, age or gender

race – a group or set of people that may share the same language, culture and history

racial inequality – treating people unequally because of their race

underrepresented – not represented well enough

oppressed – to be given harsh treatment by the government and/or society

abolished – to put something to an end in a formal way

drastically – extreme

advancements – moving forward

equality – to be equal

boycott – to make a statement by withdrawing from a big event

protest – a statement or action that shows you strongly disagree with something

exclude – not be included, not allowed to join in with the majority

subsequently – afterwards

committee – a group of people appointed to run an organisation

criticised – disapproving and judgemental of something

Podium Protest – Vocab 2

The words below have been chopped up. Put them back together again and write them underneath.

ressed	ony	comm	lude
equ	abol	opp	ality
exc	ittee	ination	discrim
harm	criti	ished	cised

oppressed

harmony

equality

criticised

abolished

discrimination

committee

exclude

The words have been scrambled up. Find out what they are using the clues.

ctotyob

boycott

withdraw from a big event

bestqusylen

consequently

afterwards

ttseopr

protest

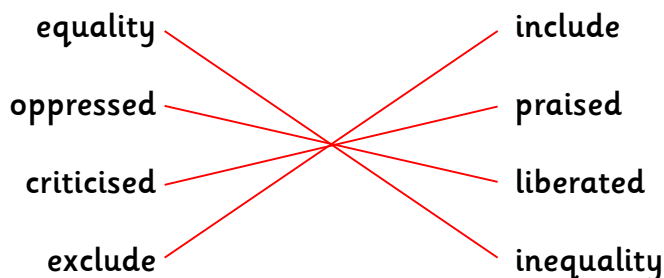
a statement or action that shows you strongly disagree with something

cxeduel

excluded

not be included, not allowed to join in with the majority

Match the word to its antonym.



classroomsecrets.com

Podium Protest – Y4m/Y5s/Y6e (Black) – Vocab **ANSWERS**

Like this? Find more differentiated Black History resources [here](#).

Podium Protest – SPAG

Choose the best connective from the box to complete the sentences below.

The IOC wanted to ban the athletes **whereas** the US committee did not.

The athletes were barefoot **in addition** to wearing gloves on their hands.

They had good reason to protest **however** the crowd at the Olympic Games disagreed.

He upset a lot of people, **consequently** they booed at him.

consequently

however

whereas

in addition

Rewrite the sentences below adding in a subordinate clause.

Tommie Smith went to the Olympics.

Use of any appropriate subordinate clause.

They held up their hands in a fist.

Use of any appropriate subordinate clause.

Black people were oppressed.

Use of any appropriate subordinate clause.

Rewrite the sentences below adding in contractions.

He has won the bronze medal at the Olympic Games!

He's won the bronze medal at the Olympic Games!

They have now been banned from the sport.

They've now been banned from the sport.

classroomsecrets.com

Podium Protest – Y4m/Y5s/Y6e (Black) – SPAG **ANSWERS**

Like this? Find more
differentiated Black History
resources [here](#).