

# [Treatment of black athletes in the us](https://assignbuster.com/treatment-of-black-athletes-in-the-us/)

SUBJUGATION OF BLACK ATHLETES

Black athletes have been the victim of economic subjugation for quite some time. People such as Colin Kaepernick and other African American athletes have tried to fight against this practice. Capitalism and commodification are major reasons why black athletes are told tostick to sportsand are denied the rights to be starters as quarterbacks in the NFL. The National Anthem has been a major controversy in which many black athletes have not stood for it, in an effort to acknowledge racism against the black community.

Commodification means transferringgoods, services, and/or people into commodities. In a sense, the individualsare devalued and not treated as someone who is worthy of respect od dignity. For instance, instead of encouraging young black men to get an advanced degree, such as a Master’s degree or a doctorate, many of these men are encouraged togo into sports. However, joining a sport is not encouraged for their own gain, but for a way that other people can make money off of African Americanathletes, such as managers, coaches, and owners of sports teams in the NFL, NBA, and MLB.

Racism has been a major challenge inthe United States, especially in the world of sports. Black athletes have beensubjected to subjugation on many levels.  African American athletes have struggled toget starting jobs in sports, such as the NFL. Studies have also shown that theNFL has showed much bias against African American quarterbacks. This shows institutionalprejudice and discrimination in the NFL.

Institutional racism isdiscrimination that is carried out by organizations, governments, or groups. Some groups are stripped of their rights, while other groups possess greaterrights. Institutional racism been directed toward many minorities, such asAfrican Americans. White individual rights versus African Americans[1](Johnson, 2006)[i]Oneof the ways that black subjugation has occurred in the NFL is the case of blackquarterback Colin Kaepernick. His decision to kneel while the National Anthemplayed was to protest racism in America that minorities face.

The case of former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick is an incident of racism against African Americans playing in the NFL. Kaepernick, a Black quarterback, chose to to start kneeling during the National Anthem that is heard before every NFLfootball games. The quarterback wanted to show how much he believes that people live in a racist country where African Americans are not respected. Unfortunately, his actions created a major problem and controversy in the America and the NFL[2](Kane & Tiell, 2017).

Because of Kaepernick’s stance onkneeling during the National Anthem, he has not secured employment in the NFLsince becoming a free agent with the team. Several NFL teams, such as theBaltimore Ravens, Denver Broncos, and Chicago Bears have needed a quarterback, but they did not sign Kaepernick, a capable quarterback. This shows racism. Kaepernick wanted racism to be exposed. Kaepernick has helped eradicate racism by giving to charities. He talkedto reporters after American noticed that he was kneeling during the NationalAnthem. According to Sandritter[3](2016, p. 1), “ He spoke about injustice and the fact that he wanted to presentan uncomfortable conversation in hopes that the country could become unified onthe topic.” Some people lived the life of oppression and discrimination andidentified with him (Kane & Tiell, 2017). Kaepernick was fighting police brutality against black Americans such asTreyvon Martin gtting killed by officer George Zimmerman and Freddie Greygetting his spine broken.

Donald Trump’s reaction to Kaepernickand NFL players kneeling created dissension. He said that NFL players who kneelshould be fired. He called them unpatriotic and a disgrace. Trump referred tothem as brown people and used swear words to describe black people that signalsthat racism. This encouraged even NFL players to take a knee during the anthem.(Cummings, 2017)[4]. When Trump told the NFL that anyone that kneels for the National Anthem shouldbe fired, he was demonstrating the power of the bureaucracy. The government gottoo involved in the situation of the National Anthem and convinced many peopleto boycott the NFL and not watch it anymore.

The case of former San Francisco49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick is an example of racism against AfricanAmericans in the NFL. Kaepernick, an African American quarterback, decided tostart kneeling during the National Anthem that is played before football gamesto show his disdain for racism that is inherent in the United States. Thiscreated a huge controversy in the NFL (Kane and Tiell 2017).

Because of Kaepernick’s stance onkneeling during the National Anthem, he has not been able to find a job in theNFL since becoming a free agent with the team. Several NFL teams, such as theBaltimore Ravens, Miami Dolphins, and the Chicago Bears have needed aquarterback, but the teams all refused to sign Kaepernick. Many people feelthat this is a sign of racism.

Kaepernick was trying to shed lighton several issues of racism that exist in society.  Kaepernick has helped eradicate racism bygiving to charities. He talked to reporters after American noticed that he waskneeling during the National Anthem. According to Sandritter (2016, p. 1), “ Hespoke about injustice and the fact that he wanted to present an uncomfortableconversation in hopes that the country could become unified on the topic.” Somepeople were on his side, as they knew what it was like to experience oppressionand racism.  They identified with hiswords and supported Kaepernick (Kane and Tiell 2017).  Kaepernick was also protesting policebrutality against African Americans, such as Treyvon Martin getting shot andkilled by officer George Zimmerman and Freddie Grey getting his spine brokenfor police officers while in jail.

Donald Trump’s response to Kaepernickand NFL players kneeling created much more outrage. He said that NFL playerswho kneel should be fired. He also referred to them as unpatriotic anddisloyal. He also called them brown people and used cure words to describethem. That signals that racism. This encouraged even more NFL players to kneelduring the anthem (Cummings 2017). Kaepernick has notbeen able to secure an NFL job as a back-up quarterback or starter, despiteKaepernick being more talented than many of the quarterbacks that have gotten achance in the NFL. For instance, the Buffalo Bills needed a new quarterbackwhen they traded Tyrod Taylor. They ended up taking a quarterback named A. J. McCarron from the Cincinnati Bengals. McCarron has only played six games as astarter and has sat behind Cincinnati first string quarterback Andy Dalton forabout four years. On the contrary, Kaepernick took the San Francisco 49ers tothe Super Bowl in 2013. The Baltimore Ravens also passed on taking Kaepernickas a back-up when they needed one, as well as many other teams that needed adecent quarterback but still passed on Kaepernick.

Kaepernick taking a stand for racismhas cost him a job in the NFL. However, the story is not over here. Recently, the case has taken a new twist. According to a CNN article, “ Colin Kaepernick’slegal team is expected to seek subpoenas for President Donald Trump, VicePresident Mike Pence and other campaign officials relating to the quarterback’scollusion case against the NFL, a source familiar with the ongoing grievanceprocess has told CNN” (Martin 2018, 1).

BecauseKaepernick, an African American quarterback, has stood up against racism, he isbeing punished by many teams in the NFL, who prefer not to have him on theteam, due to the controversy that it may cause. Trump has put himself in the middleof the National Anthem situation by calling out NFL players. The traditional tripto the White House by the Super Bowl winner, which this year was thePhiladelphia Eagles, was canceled by Trump. Trump said it was due for playersnot standing for the anthem when the true reason is that the White House didnot anticipate that many players showing up for the visit (Martin2018).

Vice President Mike Pence has alsocreated some controversy about the NFL and the National Anthem. This past year, Pence left an NFL game between the San Francisco 49ers and Indianapolis Colts, due to some players kneeling during the Anthem. Pence tweeted that it is a signof disrespect to American soldiers.  However, if a white man such as Tom Brady would have knelt down during the NationalAnthem, he may have been forgiven and not subjected to such harsh treatment.

The crackdown on African Americanplayers expressing their feelings about racism in the United States is evidentin the latest news on the anthem. This is evident in the following passage, “ Lastmonth, NFL team owners decided that playersmust standduring the National Anthemthis season, a reaction to fiercebacklash against some who took a knee in symbolic opposition to what they viewas the systemic oppression of people of color, including by police” (Martin 2018, 2). NFL CommissionerRoger Goodell said that any player and NFL personnel who refuse to stand forthe National Anthem will be fined. Players who do not want to stand may sit inthe locker room, while the Anthem is playing. Every NFL team can create rulesfor players who do not follow them. The fact that most players who do not standfor the anthem are African American is an example of black subjugation on apersonal and economic level. If fans see that certain player are always in thelocker room during the National Anthem, this can create some resentment thatmakes the lives and performance of African American athletes who stood up moreprecarious. Many fans became angry at athletes that did not stand for theNational Anthem. Several fans stopped watching football, due to thiscontroversy, these people siding with Trump and influenced by his views on theanthem (Martin 2018).

Perhaps, the black athlete whorefused to stand for the anthem will be the will be the first guy who is tradedor not kept on an NFL team when a new contract is being created. In this way, the black athletes who do not stand are being subjected to commodification. Theyare not being valued as people. The real value being placed on the situation byGoodell is in the loss of tickets sales and NFL viewers who stopped watchingthe sport. Greed and money are more important than the African Americans inthis country that are being subjected to economic subjugation and racism everyday. The problem of African Americans being shot by white police officers isnot something that is being valued by the NFL. The act of African Americanslosing their lives over racist police officers is not being prioritized. On thecontrary, money and high ratings for the NFL is all that seems to matter topeople such as Goodell and people involved in making money from the NFL.

Not respecting African Americanathletes is something that seems to start in college. A study that examined 168African American males and how stereotypes and prejudice affected the grades ofthese African American college athletes revealed interesting results. The studyshowed the following results, “ Racial and athletic identity dimensions werefound to moderate the relationships between discrimination and the academicoutcomes of these individuals” (Fuller 2017, 402). While African American male collegeathletes responded well to specific types of stigma, such as academicstereotypes that other people have of them, by being infused with resiliency toget good grades, the same did not hold true when these athletes were exposed todiscrimination. When discrimination occurred, the academic performance of theseathletes achievement was affected in a negative way. The study results arebetter described as, “ Rather than it being an either/or scenario, this studydemonstrates how the tenets of stereotype threat and stereotype management canbe both/and with respect to the academic outcomes of African American malecollege athletes” (Fuller 2017, 421)[5]This shows that how African American students do in school is a combination ofmany factors that are not that simple to predict

African American quarterbacks arejudged more stringently than white quarterbacks and subjected blackquarterbacks to more stereotypes. Prior research supports this. A studyexamines how white subjects “ applied stereotypical descriptions of athletes toWhite and Black professional quarterbacks” (Ferrucci, 2017, pp. 51-52)[6].  The results of the study demonstrated thatwhite subjects stereotyped the “ other.” Yet, the subjects applied stereotypesto black quarterbacks, but not white people (Ferrucci, 2017, p. 52). This showsthat white people give stereotypes to individuals they feel are not in thein-group. White quarterbacks are regarded as more intelligent and betterleaders than black quarterbacks, which shows racism (Ferrucci, 2017).

A recent instance of racism concernsLamar Jackson, a quarterback from the Louisville Cardinals. The collegequarterback is African American. The fact that he is scrambling quarterback, who managed to put up about 1500 yards in rushing this year on the ground hascontributed to some racism. Despite the Jackson has putting up over10, 000 yardspassing and rushing his past two seasons, some people at the NFL Combine havestated that he should switch to wide receiver. One of these people includesBill Polian, who was in the scouting department for the Buffalo Bills when theyhad their Super Bowl teams in the 1990’s (Gaughan 2018)[7]Ablack quarterback who has scrambling ability is often asked to switchpositions. However, a white quarterback is never asked to do the same thing. White quarterbacks Steve Young, John Elway, and Steven Grogan were all whitequarterbacks who could also scramble well. They were never asked to switchposition. In this year’s NFL draft, Wyoming quarterback Josh Allen is beingslated as a higher pick and better quarterback, even though his completionpercentage is lower than Jackson’s completion percentage (Gaughan 2018).

To stand up for himself, Jacksonrefused to do the 40-yard dash in the Combine. This is evident in the followingpassage of, “ Jackson dismissed any suggestion of a position switch when talkingto reporters at the combine last month. He declined to run the 40-yard dash inIndianapolis and at his pro-day workout on Thursday” (Gaughan 2018, 2).

Furthermore, African Americanathletes are often regarded as individuals with all brawn and not much brain. For example, a study conducted 17 years ago by the group Children Now showedsome interesting results that support the fact that black subjugation happens. When looking at 1500 video game characters in certain video games, almost 300were categorized as Black males. Almost 85% of these males of those were peggedas built and chiseled athletes. The characters have big biceps and hulkingchests. This study shows that a certain image of Black males is beingsupported. This stereotype is that African American males have better bodiesand more physically aggressive at the detriment of one’s brain andintelligence.

Condredge Holloway was an AfricanAmerican college quarterback in the 1970’s, who was also a great scramblingquarterback. However, when he tried to get into the Alabama’s Crimson Tidecollege program, he was told that Alabama was not ready for a black quarterbackand that he could play another position, such as defensive back or widereceiver. This type of discrimination happened, due to the weird belief thatblack people were not equipped to get into leadership positions, such asquarterback. Holloway went on to play for the University if Tennessee and brokeall sorts of records in rushing and passing. It is unfortunate that Hollowaynever got to play in the NFL, due to racism that is still inherent today (Silva 2011)[8].

On the basis of his assumptions, Dahrendorf argues that society can be split up into the “ commandclass” and the “ obey class” and class conflict should refer tosituations of struggle between those with authority and those without. BlackNFL players haved lacked the authority that white players have and are oftenpunished for expressing their beliefs (Tittenbrun 2013)[9].

Critical Race Theory is somethingthat has been used to describe how black athletes often get the short end ofthe stick when it comes to transferring from a white college. A study by Cooperand Hawkins focuses on this phenomenon. The main goal of the study was to “ examine the experiences of Black malestudent athletes who transferred from predominantly White institutions (PWIs)to a Historically Black College/University (HBCU) in the southeastern UnitedStates (U. S.)” (Cooper and Hawkins 2014, 80). The study utilized aone focus group interview and two interviews with each African American studentathletes who attended a certain university.

Critical race theory (CRT) wasapplied as a theoretical framework to show how racism has an effect on theparticipants’ experiences in various educational and sociocultural settings.  The key research topics of interest includedidentifying the participants’ reasons for transferring from a PWI to a HBCU andunderstanding their college experiences at the HBCU. Findings revealedparticipants’ encounters with various forms of covert and overt racism at PWIsresulted in negative college experiences, which motivated them to transfer to aHBCU. Using tenets of CRT and a thematic analysis procedure, the following twoemergent themes were identified: “ We Were the Outcasts” and “ They Want to SeeYou Succeed.” Implications for policy and practice are discussed.

Blackquarterbacks have also not led their teams to a Super Bowl that much. The onlyguys who have done it are Doug Williams from the Washington Redskins andRussell Wilson from the Seattle Seahawks. Cam Newton and Steve McNair lostSuper Bowls. When Cam Newton, a black quarterback, throws a fit on the field, yells at one of his players, or pouts about something, he is portrayed a s aguy that is too emotional or out of line. However, white quarterback Tom Bradyhas shown many instances of bad sportsmanship and excuses are given to him, such as he likes to win. For instance, Brady yelled at his offensivecoordinator Josh McDaniels on the sideline during a game, but people keptdefending him by saying that Brady just gets fired up on the field and loves towin. When Brady walked off the field without shaking the hand of Super Bowl MVPNick Foles, excused for Brady were made, such as him hating to lose and beingultra-competitive. Black quarterbacks do not get that same luxury and are oftenregarded as too emotional and having an ager issue. That is not fair and showsthat there is much racism in sports.

When looking at the Dahrendorftheory, it shows that white quarterbacks are in the command class, while theblack quarterbacks are in the obey class. The black quarterbacks are oppressedunder the command class of white people. The system still seems to exist in theNFL (Tittenbrun 2013).

One can also get a good look at howdiscrimination happens by looking at how Ben Roethlisberger’s cases werehandled when he was accused of sexual assault twice. In 2009 and 2010, thePittsburgh Steelers quarterback was accused of raping to women. One woman, Andrea McNulty claimed that the quarterback asked her to come to his hotel roomto fix his television. According to McNulty, when she got there, Roethlisbergergrabbed her and raped her, despite her saying no. Roethlisberger also had helpcovering it up, as stated by the following passage, “ The suit alleged thatRoethlisberger had raped McNulty in his room at the hotel in July 2008; thesuit also alleged that the eight employees had aided in covering up theassault” (Ben Roethlisberger, quarterback, twice accused of sexual assault 2015)[10]. This act of concealing the rape is a good example of how a bureaucracy, a groupof people who work together for a common function can be to the detriment ofsociety. The hotel people should not have been trying to cover that rape. Doingthat only makes things worse for women and makes what they say not as valued.

Lookingat it from a Feminist Theory perspective, one would say how a patriarchy isprevalent in the NFL and many other areas and men are given greater rights andpower. Traditional gender roles keep women stuck and suggest that men have theright to take what they want from women, such as sex. It is not right, and theway that society perpetuates the belief is tough (Johnson 2006).

In another instance, the quarterback wasaccused of raping a college student in the bathroom of a bar while, while otherbodyguards guarded the door of the bathroom. However, the charges were droppedin both cases, and Roethlisberger only had a four-game suspension from the NFL. There was not as much social media in 2009 and 2010 and no video proof wasthere (Ben Roethlisberger, quarterback, twice accused of sexual assault 2015).

However, African American runningback Ray Rice was treated much differently when a video was circulated onlineof Rice punching his girlfriend in the face and knocking her unconscious in theelevator of a casino. Rice was suspended from the NFL and has not been back inthe league since the Baltimore Ravens cut him in 2014. Rice, who has receivedcounseling and has talked about domestic violence to many people all over theworld and has still not been let back into the NFL. He has never played sincethat day, and it is highly unlikely that he will ever play another down in theNFL. Some may say he was let go, due to video proof that the Roethlisbergercase lacks, but it seems that racism played a great factor. LikeRoethlisberger, Rice did a lot for the community, which is evident in thefollowing words of, “ In Baltimore, Rice had a reputation for kindness andgenerosity and was widely viewed as empathetic and charitable. Rice was ahomeless advocate, a relentless supporter of Baltimore’s Make-A-WishFoundation, and an especially loud voice on the subject of cyberbullying” (Dean 2018, 1)[11].

What happened to Ray Rice can adhereto what Gerald Lensky states in his theory that class is really just “ anaggregation of persons in a society who stand in a similar position withrespect to some form of power, privilege, or prestige”  (Tittenbrun 2013, 130). When the goal is toget an answer to the question of which person gets certain things and thereasons for it, then power classes are the main aim. He also viewed technologyas a gauge to how society progresses, which is explains the Rice case somewhat. If you look at what happened to Rice, social media was more widespread and thevideo of him punching his girlfriend was there for everyone to see. The burdenof proof was not there in the same way that Roethlisberger’s visual proof wasnot there and failed to exist in the same way. Without that technology, wouldRice have been convicted? Rice is also in the race of being black.

In 2014, 12-year old African AmericanTamir Rice was shot and killed by police officers in Cleveland, Ohio. None ofthe police officers were found guilty in a court of law. Rice was shot and killedin the city where basketball player Lebron James is famous. A native of Akron, Ohio, James plays basketball in the Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland. James hasbeen an outspoken activist for Black Lives Matter and some civil rights. However, when he was asked about the court verdict relating to Rice’s shootersnot being charged with a crime, James did not offer any input on the subject. Instead, the basketball star just said that he did not have enough facts on thesituation to offer insight on the situation. (Gartland, 2016)[12].

Many people found it odd that Jamesdid not express more anger and disdain for the police officers not serving anytime. Rice was also shot on a playground in Cleveland that is very close to theCleveland Cavaliers’ stadium. The reason that James did not offer a moredefinite stance could be due to the fact that James’ big multi-million-dollarcontract depends on Cleveland helping to boost his image. Black economicsubjugation is something that James may have been worrying about in hisdecision to not speak out against the law enforcement in the city that he playsbasketball in. Angering police officers in the city, people who may watch hisbasketball games, could have had bad ramifications for James (James &Jenkins, 2014). Would the brands and advertising that James has put his name onpull him from their advertising if he took a stance on the issue of policeofficers shooting African Americans?

James has referred to Cleveland ashis home several times (Berlinger & Martin, 2016, para. 12)[13]. James’ reaction is something that was surprising, which is demonstrated by the followingwords, “ For someone who had taken on the activist role in the past, expectations for James to speak out or provide some sort of support were high. Advocates within the Black Lives Matter movement called on James to take astand” (Coombs and Casillo 2017, Vol. 41(5) , 428)

Some people on socialmedia also wanted James to not play games unless the federal Justice Departmentgot involved in the case. However, James did not do that, his desire to playthe game of basketball seemingly more important than taking a hard stance onwhat happened in Cleveland (Coombs and Casillo 2017, Vol. 41(5) ).

Another famous instance of racism is Thecase of Michael Bennett is another case where people and groups, such as BlackLives Matter (BLM), are citing some racism. In the Super Bowl two years ago, Bennett was watching his brother Martellus Bennett, a player for the NewEngland Patriots, play. When Michael realized that Martellus had won, Michael startedto walk on the field to congratulate his brother. However, according to policeofficers, Michael, who was told that he cannot go through a set of doors, charged through it anyway and knocked down an elderly 66- year old paraplegicwoman. She incurred some injuries. Bennett, who was charged and had to post$10, 000 bail may end up going to trial for the incident. Bennett could face 10years in prison if found guilty and the case goes to trial. BLM feel that notenough proof exists to charge Bennett (McManus 2018)[14]

Said Bennett’s lawyer Rusty Hardin, “ I just don’t think he did it,” Hardin said.“ He certainly didn’t do anything intentionally, or negligibly orrecklessly push or hurt her. Now, did something else happen to her fromsomebody else? I just don’t know” (McManus 2018, 1-2).

The Dahrendorf Theory states that“ Relations of command are those where internalized values structure both therights of principals to give orders and the corresponding obligations forsubalterns to obey” (Tittenbrun 2013, 133).

Racism has gotten much worse withPresident Donald Trump has been elected. His presidency has seemed to shift thecountry into a nation of people that believe it is acceptable to say racistthings, execute white privilege, participate in hates crimes, and ignore thefact that racism exists and needs to be eradicated. I expect to learn differentaspects of racism, such as the factors that make it worse, why it still exists, and the various ideas that exist regarding racism (Rein 2017).

As you can see, racism in the NFL, especially against black quarterbacks, can be seen through how players such asColin Kaepernick, Michael Bennett, and Condredge Calloway, and Lamar Jacksonare treated as inferior. However, white NFL players, such as Tom Brady and BenRoethlisberger are given the benefit of the doubt. How Trump has gotten in theway and theories, such as Dahrendorf, feminism, and Lensky show racism has beenable to persist in the NFL. Ray Rice, despite getting counseling and admittinghis wrongdoing and doing community service, has not been let back into the NFL, which signified some type of possible racism.

Itis important to keep in mind how we can shift racist beliefs. They often happenwhen youth and young adults experience up growing up. Most academicinstitutions do not have classes devoted to racism, its solutions, and the badeffects of racism. This is where social workers cans step in and start creatingin-services and seminars on racism for students, teacher and other educational staffin schools. When people are educated on racism, then the likelihood of racismbeing eradicated in society should lessen.

Racismhas been a major issue in the United States. It has been a problem that hasplagued law enforcement and the sports world. Research shows that AfricanAmerican people have been shot and killed by police officers more thanindividuals of other races. Studies have also shown that the NFL has beendiscriminatory against African American quarterbacks. Both of these issues willdescribe racism, what constitutes as institutional racism, and examples ofracism in the NFL.  Some solutions tothis problem, as well as three social works skills that can be utilized toaddress this issue will be explained in this essay.

Institutionalracism is defined as racism and discrimination that is committed by certaininstitutions, governments, or organizations against certain individuals. Theirrights are denied. Institutional racism has affected many minorities, especially African Americans. Other groups, such as white people have moreinherent rights than African Americans (Johnson 2006). This racism still occurring today andcan be seen in the way that the NFL and other citizens have responded toAfrican American quarterback Colin Kaepernick and his decision to kneel duringthe United States National Anthem.

The case of former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick is an example of racism against African Americans in the NFL. Kaepernick, an African American quarterback, decided to start kneeling during the National Anthem that is played before football games to show his disdain for racism that is inherent in the United States. This created a huge controversy in the NFL (Kane and Tiell 2017).

Becauseof Kaepernick’s stance on kneeling during the National Anthem, he has not beenable to find a job in the NFL since becoming a free agent with the team. Several NFL teams, such as the Baltimore Ravens, Miami Dolphins, and theChicago Bears have needed a quarterback, but the teams all refused to signKaepernick. Many people feel that this is a sign of racism.

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AfricanAmerican quarterbacks have also stated that they are judged more harshly thanwhite quarterbacks and subjected black quarterbacks to more stereotypes. Pastresearch supports this theory. A study examines how white subjects “ appliedstereotypical descriptions of athletes to White and Black professionalquarterbacks” (Ferrucci 2017, 51-52).  The results of the study demonstrated thatwhite subjects stereotyped the “ other.” Yet, the subjects did apply stereotypesto black quarterbacks, which is evident in the following passage of, “ However, the participants rated Black players to be more physically strong and morenaturally able than they rated White players. Note that the participants didnot stereotype, or other, White players, who can be considered members of theirin-group” (Ferrucci 2017, 52). This shows that white people applystereotype to individual they feel are not in the in-group. White quarterbacksare often looked upon and more intelligent and better leaders than blackquarterbacks, which demonstrated racism (Ferrucci 2017).

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WhenBuffalo Bills quarterback Tyrod Taylor was benched in favor of whitequarterback Nate Peterman, Taylor said that African American quarterbacks arejudged more harshly than white quarterbacks and are given less time to perfecttheir game and improve. This would constitute as racism. As you can see, theblack economic subjugation of black athletes is something that has been donemany times in sports. Capitalism is the reason for making black athletesoppressed and good for making money in sports, as long as these athletes do notget ahead of white people.

Ido not agree with the way that society handles racism. Many people, mostlywhite people, say that African Americans have the same opportunities as them, but that is not always true. Many African Americans are targeted by the policeand also come from neighborhoods that are not kept up and have high crimesrates and high levels of unemployment. This keeps minorities oppressed andunable to be successful and live a decent life. Many times, it the system andlaws that keep African American people down, Yet, many white people do not wantto acknowledge that the problem of racism exists and is systematic of whiteprivilege that gives white people a higher economic status and more benefitsthan minorities, such as a greater social status and an easier time getting asolid education and jobs

Onepossible solution to the problem of racism is to use one’s social work platformto change laws. There should be stricter laws that pertain to police officerswho shoot African American individuals or people from other races. As of now, there is no federal legislation that stated repercussions for a police officerthat shoots and murders an unarmed person.

Onesocial work skill that can be used to address racism is to use advocacy. Advocating for equal rights for individuals of all races can be accomplished byencouraging law makers to change laws that are anti-racism. One of the firststeps is to create petitions that call for racist organizations and racistpolicies to change.  Removing racistpeople from positions of power is another reason for a petition. One example ofthis is the case of Carl Paladino (Harris 2017)[15].

Sincemany racist attitudes and beliefs stem from what children and young adults hearand see growing up, education is where racism can be stopped. Most academicinstitutions do not have a class or course that is only dedicated to racism, itssolutions, and the negative effects of racism. This is where social workerscans step in and a start writing textbooks about racism that can be used inhigh schools. Social workers can also assist in establishing in-services andseminars on racism for students, teacher and other educational staff inschools. When people are educated on racism, then the likelihood of racismbeing eradicated in society should lessen.

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