

THE ROYALE

Unpacking Race, Celebrity, and Activism

Educators, click here for a copy of a Pear Deck-formatted Google Slides presentation:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1--X9-sl79YcFZFB1vxnzIZen3hURQYjJJ1tbS5No-x4/copy>

DO NOW

Students use the Pear Deck to complete four brief questions about race, sport, celebrity, and activism.

- a) What is the best way to achieve social change?
- b) Do celebrities/athletes have an obligation to be agents of change?
- c) What makes you think that?
- d) What is the role of the athlete right now?

MINI LESSON

- Playwright's inspiration for THE ROYALE: Jack Johnson
- How is the fictional Jay Jackson like Jack Johnson?
- Other inspiration for Jay Jackson: contemporary figures LeBron James and Kanye West
- How familiar are you with James and West? (Interactive slide: Students drag icons to the images on the collage they are familiar with.)

Note: Review student responses (polls) from the Do Now questions. Keep these ideas in mind as you interact with the latter part of the PearDeck.

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

1. Students read short excerpts of longer articles about James and West considering the question: How do the issues of race, celebrity and activism connect to some of the current inspirations for Jay Jackson of THE ROYALE? (10 minutes recommended)
2. Discussion questions
 - Do famous people have a responsibility to the communities they come from?
 - Is it important for famous people to be speak out on race and other social issues?
 - Why might it be difficult for someone famous to take on social change?

Options for discussion

- Pair/Share
- Rotating Breakout Rooms
- Silent Discussion in Chat
- Small groups (ideally 5) for students to discuss their responses to the questions

EXIT TICKET

Reflection #1: How has your thinking changed?

I used to think _____ now I think _____ because _____.

Reflection #2: What is one question you now have about these themes?

A new question I am thinking about after today's lesson is _____.

Additional Resources:

One page PDF of James and West reading excerpts:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ELoIMUjnZhv4rk_cBjYLdQI-wJm78Dkp/view?usp=sharing

I'm Not Black, I'm Kanye by Ta-Nehisi Coates. The Atlantic. May 7, 2018

<https://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2018/05/im-not-black-im-kanye/559763/>

LeBron James continues to expand our concept of excellence by Kiese Laymon. The Undefeated. October 11, 2020

<https://theundefeated.com/features/lebron-james-continues-to-expand-our-concept-of-excellence/>