

THE 901 PROJECT

by

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## ABSTRACT

### **Background:**

I conducted a study of the intersection of race and sport in the city of Memphis. I have always been an avid basketball fan, and growing up in Memphis, I cheered on our collegiate team, the Memphis Tigers, and our NBA team, the Memphis Grizzlies. When considering a topic for my honors project, I knew that I wanted to focus on basketball, and I thought it would be interesting to study the history of basketball in the city of Memphis because of the many basketball legends that come from our city. However, when I started thinking about basketball in the city of Memphis, I realized that the value of the sport goes deeper than just the court. Memphis has a dark, challenging history. The city has had to overcome the problem of racial adversity throughout its past and is something that Memphis is still working to address today. In the midst of all the negativity throughout the past, basketball has always been present in the city of Memphis. I became curious to research how race and the sport of basketball coincided with one another throughout time in Memphis, and if sports have played a small part in aiding to unite the city.

### **Methods:**

I worked to answer the question, “How do Memphis athletics have the power to aid in overcoming racial divides.” I created a multimedia documentary website that is housing the research I conducted. To begin, I wrote a 30-source annotated bibliography and researched topics ranging from “the history of Memphis athletics” to “how to create a website.” I used this information to create the different sections on my website. The website includes a blog post section, a docuseries video section, and an interview section. These three sections all helped me to answer my key question.

### **Results:**

Through my research, I discovered that people do believe that sports have the power to aid in uniting the city of Memphis. This statement was heavily concluded through interviews. All interviewees were asked to speak of their perception of the intersection of race and sport from their personal athletic careers in Memphis, and their answers all differed based on their various backgrounds. I found that people believe sports have the power to aid in uniting the city as a result of passionate fandom, civic pride, and community impact. Through writing blog posts and docuseries videos, I have found that awareness is a key factor in mending racial divides. Both the NBA and the Grizzlies have made it a priority to use their platforms to advocate for social justice and their advocacy starts with awareness.

### **Conclusion:**

Sports can be a positive area of change; however, sports do not have the ability to overcome racial adversity. I definitely believe that they can play a part in helping to aid communities to unite. Sports bring people of all backgrounds and races together to cheer on the same team. Through researching how sports, particularly basketball, have used athletic platforms to advocate for social justice, I realized that the conversation regarding social change becomes easier.

**Annotated Bibliography**  
**Honors Tutorial: The 901 Project**  
**A Study of the Intersection of Race and Sport in Memphis**  
**November 12, 2020**  
**Brook Goodman**

- 1) BLM. "Home." Black Lives Matter, 22 June 2020, [blacklivesmatter.com/](https://blacklivesmatter.com/).

Black Lives Matter is an extremely prominent movement in our society today. The purpose of my project is to research how the sport of basketball unites the city of Memphis despite racial tensions, and I think that it is important to understand the motive behind one of the most prominent movements in our country. The Black Lives Matter movement was established in 2013 following the death of Trayvon Martin. The BLM mission is to put an end to white supremacy as well as to end violence in black communities. BLM is working to create a world in which African American people are no longer targeted. They want to ensure that all black communities, all over the world, are connected in order to fight racism. The black community has the shared desire for justice in all of their communities, and they will fight until racism comes to a complete end. The Memphis Grizzlies recently participated in the BLM movement when they finished their season games in the NBA Bubble.

- 2) Conover, Ted. "The Strike That Brought MLK to Memphis." *Smithsonian.com*, Smithsonian Institution, 1 Jan. 2018

This article written by the Smithsonian Magazine explains how racial tensions changed following Dr. Martin Luther King's visit to Memphis. Dr. King came to Memphis in order to peacefully protest with sanitation workers and delivered his famous "I've Been to the Mountain Top" speech. However, devastation struck when Dr. King was assassinated while standing on his hotel balcony in Memphis. The article explores how the already racially divided city initially reacted to Dr. King's death in violent strikes from shock and anger, but these feelings soon turned to shame followed by a longing to reunite the city. Memphis, although it is still fighting to end racial injustice, has become devoted to sharing the story of the Civil Rights movement. Memphis knows that its history is troubled, but the city is working in unity in order to learn from previous mistakes to create a more unified city.

- 3) Deb, Sopan, and Shauntel Lowe. "Timeline: A Year That Changed the N.B.A." *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 30 Sept. 2020, [www.nytimes.com/2020/09/30/sports/basketball/nba-season-covid-bubble.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/30/sports/basketball/nba-season-covid-bubble.html).

This summer, the NBA operated as a professional platform that not only provided sports entertainment for fans but also gave players an outlet to advocate for social justice. It was interesting to read about how the NBA went through great changes throughout the 2019-2020 season. This article written by New York Times journalists Sopan Deb and Shauntel Lowe explained how the NBA took note of the problem of racism that consumed the country and worked to fix it. Reading this article really highlighted the extreme difficulties that players, fans,

and coaches went through this past season. However, it explains that despite the challenges, the sport of basketball kept each team united with one another. This year, basketball showed the country that sports can help push people through challenging times, but they can also be used to promote social justice in hopes of unifying the country as well.

- 4) Goudsouzian, Aram. "The 1973 Memphis State Tigers and Myths of Race and Sport." *Back to One City*, 31 Mar. 2016

Adam Goudsouzian, chair of the Department of History and Civil Rights scholar at the University of Memphis, wrote a moving article analyzing how the 1973 Memphis Tigers basketball team had the ability to reunite the very broken city of Memphis. Although Dr. King had been assassinated 5 years prior, the city of Memphis was still struggling to recover from the shocking incident that happened in the city. Goudsouzian wrote about how although the 1973 Tigers team had a challenging start, the team ended up achieving one of the most successful basketball seasons that Memphis had ever seen, making it all the way to the NCAA championships. Star players, Larry Finch and Ronnie Robinson united the Tigers team through leadership, but also united the city because of their calm attitudes and racial goodwill towards others in the community when racial tensions were high. The Tigers made their team one that erased racial barriers, and the team acted as a model for the larger society of Memphis and encouraged the city to unify as well.

- 5) Grizzlies. Memphis Grizzlies Foundation, 2015, [www.grizzliesfoundation.org/the-problem/](http://www.grizzliesfoundation.org/the-problem/)

The Memphis Grizzlies Foundation was created in order to support and unite children living below the poverty line in the Shelby County/Memphis area. The foundation offers

mentoring services in hopes that relationships developed can aid in reshaping and developing the future of these children. The Memphis Grizzlies Foundation has four distinct programs that have been created to target and mentor different youth groups. “Mentor Memphis Grizzlies” was created with the mission of uniting a broad range of local Memphis organizations to support youth mentoring programs. The end goal is to increase the number of mentoring relationships in Memphis. “TEAM Mentor Program” is targeted towards middle school children. Three volunteer members are assigned with six students where they engage in a community group to learn social context skills, build trustworthy relationships, and learn to rely on each other. “GrizzFit” is an after-school fitness and mentoring program for students, and the “Memphis Grizzlies Scholars Program” is a high school prep program designed for rising eighth grade boys to receive help when applying to attend competitive high schools. Since the program began in 2001, the Memphis Grizzlies have invested over \$53.1 million to youth development and mentoring programs. The Memphis Grizzlies understand the importance of unity, and the Memphis Grizzlies Foundation is working hard to create strong, united relationships for children to turn to for future guidance and success.

- 6) Hoskin, Maia Niguel. “2020 Has Been Difficult For The Black Community. Discrimination At Work Only Adds Insult To Injury.” *Forbes*, Forbes Magazine, 27 May 2020,

This article was written in Forbes magazine by Maia Niguel Hoskin, a writer dedicated to advocating for diversity and inclusion. She published this article to explain all of the hardships that African Americans have endured as a result of racism in 2020. She talks about the concept of racial battle fatigue, which is the result of the ongoing experiences of discrimination and racism that African Americans have endured in the workplace and socially. It is also a result due to the

devastating impact that COVID-19 has had in the black community. All of these factors mixed together have made this year extremely challenging. The article further explains its claims with research and statistics. For example, it has been concluded that one in four African Americans will experience an anxiety disorder at some point throughout their lifetime, and this is sadly due to the hardships that African Americans continually face. It is important to know this information because this way, others can learn to support this community through challenging times.

- 7) How to Interview ‘Almost’ Anyone.” Performance by Mike Dronkers, Youtube, Tedx Talks, 11 June 2015, [www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDOQBPYEaNs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDOQBPYEaNs).

Mike Dronkers, mid-day host at KHUM-FM radio station, has experience interviewing guests varying from authors, poets, bands, and celebrities. Through his years of professional experience, Dronkers has adhered to five techniques that have successfully aided him through the interview process. He states that the first step necessary to conduct an interview is to research your guest. If you are not prepared, you risk the chance of an awkward interview. Dronkers also suggested researching previous interviews of your guest in order to create follow up questions to ask in your own interview. Engaging in this method will likely impress your interviewee and leave them wondering “how you knew that.” Dronkers then proceeded to list efficient interview techniques to use during the interview process. For example, he stated that two of the most important things that you as an interviewer can practice are listening and being quiet. Listening will help you further engage in conversation and being quiet gives the interviewee room to express their opinions. Finally, the greatest point Dronkers emphasized was to show genuine interest in everyone you interview. All stories are important and conducting an interview with a curious mindset will highlight the unique story of each guest you interview.

- 8) Hughes, John. "3 Ways to Augment Your Website with AR." *Velocitize*, 10 Aug. 2018,

Velocitize is an organization that is dedicated to helping consumers reach digital success in their business endeavors. The website provides helpful tips and techniques on how to effectively manage media. This company specifically discusses how to implement augmented reality onto a website. Augmented reality combines elements of the real and digital world in order to allow consumers to interact directly with digital software. Augmented reality is an innovative way in which companies are beginning to separate their websites from others. This article lists three basic ways in which augmented reality can be added on a website. These techniques include adding augmented reality to banner ads appearing at the top of website pages, incorporating it on your "product page" which are the pages that include all products that are for sale or are represented on your website, and incorporating it as a "learning tool" to provide the consumer an experience to actually engage with your website and its products. If these techniques are implemented properly, they are sure to set your website apart from others.

- 9) Inam, Henna. "How To Have A Courageous Conversation About Race." *Forbes*, *Forbes Magazine*, 4 June 2020, [www.forbes.com/sites/hennainam/2020/06/04/how-to-have-a-courageous-conversation-about-race/](http://www.forbes.com/sites/hennainam/2020/06/04/how-to-have-a-courageous-conversation-about-race/).

This article suggests how to engage in a meaningful conversation revolving around race. Starting a conversation about race can be daunting. We often put pressure on ourselves to have perfect dialogue to avoid conversation that is awkward or uncomfortable. Inam, however, emphasizes the importance of digging deep and pushing oneself to be curious in order to create honest conversation. We must engage in conversation with an open mind and heart to "feel the pain of the other and connect it with our own" (Inam). In order to conduct a successful

conversation regarding race, Inam suggests the following: bring your most compassionate and vulnerable self to the conversation, listen to find the hero in the other person, connect to the emotional experience of the person, and dig deep to understand values. If we engage in racial conversation with these four qualities in mind, the result has great potential to be the authentic, meaningful, and moving conversation that you were seeking to obtain.

- 10) Lapchick, Richard. "Racism Reported in Sports Decreasing but Still Prevalent." *ESPN*, ESPN Internet Ventures, 19 Feb. 2020, [www.espn.com/espn/story/\\_/id/28738336/racism-reported-sports-decreasing-prevalent](http://www.espn.com/espn/story/_/id/28738336/racism-reported-sports-decreasing-prevalent).

This article was written by Richard Lapchick, a writer for ESPN news. Lapchick wrote about how in general, documented acts of racism in professional sports have continually decreased over the past two years. This article also writes about how players were happy to use their voices to advocate for social justice, but at the same time, it was important for executives and owners to join players in promoting racial justice as well. Once all players, owners, coaches, and executives learn that it is safe to use their platforms to support others and to fight for what you believe in, basketball will become a united playing ground. Although basketball and sports do not have the power to simply unite everyone and overcome racism, the sport can make an impact by being an entity that advocates for permanent change.

- 11) Magnesi, Jennifer. "One-on-One Interview Techniques." How to Interview Someone for an Article or Research Paper, 20 Dec. 2018 [careertrend.com/way-5201611-one-on-one-interview-techniques.html](http://careertrend.com/way-5201611-one-on-one-interview-techniques.html).

It is easy to become overwhelmed when preparing to conduct a one-on-one interview. Pressure to maintain a continuous conversation can consume the interviewer's mind which adds

unnecessary stress to the interviewing process. This anxiety, however, can be conquered by following Magnesi's tips for conducting a flawless interview. Magnesi begins by emphasizing the importance of professionally contacting your interviewee. She suggests stating your name, school, project title, and giving a brief explanation of the purpose of your interview. This way, the interviewee will understand the goal of your interview and hopefully feel more confident to say "yes" to the interview process. Researching your guest is imperative because understanding background and professional information is crucial for a meaningful interview and makes your guest feel valued. It is always important to start your interview with a brief introduction of yourself, your guest, and to remain confident and casual throughout the entirety of the interview. A relaxed composure will likely ease the nerves of a interviewee. Be sure to ask questions regarding "who, what, when, and how" so the conversation remains interesting. Remembering these techniques will keep you relaxed throughout the interview process.

- 12) McConnell, Allen. "The Psychology of Sports Fandom." Psychology Today, July 2015, [www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-social-self/201507/the-psychology-sports-fandom](http://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-social-self/201507/the-psychology-sports-fandom).

Last semester, I was fortunate to participate in a sports documentary that studied the effect that sports teams have on fanship. We researched why people are so passionate about their favorite teams and established that sports teams can create a shared sense of unity among fanbases. Researching the psychology of sports fandom would help me understand why sports develop unity among fans. This particular article focused on three reasons sports are tightly knit with unity. The first reason stated that team associations drive our self-esteem. People establish self-esteem when associated with successful people. We often refer to our favorite teams with first person pronouns. For example, oftentimes, people say, "our defense was

amazing.” They refer to themselves as being “part of the team” because we enjoy being connected to things that are successful and bring us joy. The second reason discussed is that sports satisfy our need to belong. Humans long to be socially connected to others. McConnell wrote, “being in a collective experience with others who share a common passion is one of the greatest joys people can experience socially” (McConnell). The third reason was that arbitrary alliances translate into embracing larger ideologies. McConnell discussed how being born into a family rooted sports team fandom is an arbitrary allegiance. I think this last point relates to why the Grizzlies fanbase means so much to the city of Memphis.

- 13) Meadows-Fernandez, Rochaun. “Four Ways Youth Sports Can Combat Racism.” *GOOD*, GOOD, 1 Aug. 2019, [www.good.is/sports/youth-sports-racism-study](http://www.good.is/sports/youth-sports-racism-study).

This article talked about how studies have shown that it is possible for the boundaries of race to be broken if children begin to participate in team sports at a young age. This article was written by Rochaun Meadows-Fernandez, a journalist dedicated to researching issues regarding sociology, health, and parenting. Fernandez stated some ways in which children can address racial biases by exposing young athletes to diverse authority figures, learning the importance of teamwork, developing meaningful relationships with teammates, and the importance of parents encouraging their children to be inclusive towards their peers. Implementing these factors into children’s sports will hopefully teach our future athletes to treat all peers and teammates equally. This would be a huge step in the right direction of solving racial inequality.

- 14) Miller, Rachel. "How to Start a Conversation about Racism and Unconscious Bias." *All Things IC*, 2 Aug. 2020

Rachel Miller is the owner of All Things Inc, a company dedicated to mentoring clients on how to communicate effectively with their teams and employees. Rachel wrote an elaborate article discussing how to start conversations about racism and unconscious bias. She provides a detailed list of ways in which it is appropriate to start a conversation revolving around race. She suggests beginning the conversation by taking an empathetic approach and stating the purpose of meeting, being open throughout the conversation, and educating yourself on the potential topics of discussion before the conversation for understanding. These techniques will make conversation much more relaxed if you are confident in your questions and ability to effectively and confidently communicate when engaging in tough conversations.

- 15) NBA. "Intersection of Race and Sports." Memphis Grizzlies, [NBA.com/Grizzlies](https://www.nba.com/Grizzlies), 19 June 2020, [www.nba.com/grizzlies/intersection-of-race-and-sports](https://www.nba.com/grizzlies/intersection-of-race-and-sports).

"Where Do we Go From Here?"

The Memphis Grizzlies have facilitated powerful discussions regarding Intersection of Race and Sport. These discussions are held in honor of Dr Martin Luther King Jr. day. A honorary group of athletes, activists, and Memphis youth are selected each year to serve as panelists who lead the discussion. Social injustice is extremely prominent today, therefore, these discussions are more important for people to view than ever. I found particular interest in a discussion held in 2018, where the panel answered questions regarding the statement, "where do we go from here." This question was asked due to the ongoing racial tensions that our country

continues to face today. Former WNBA star, Swin Cash, talks about the way in which she believes that basketball and athletics inspire and unite children. Cash enjoys giving back to the community through her charity, Cash for Kids, and believes that you can use the game of basketball to help children understand the concept of “achievement.” In the midst of challenging times, it is important to “keep going” and provide the youth with positive people and messages. When children see others around them working hard and in unity with one another, it inspires them to achieve greatness as well. This source is helpful because it confirms that NBA professionals witness the sport of basketball uniting children of all backgrounds. It enforces my argument that sports do have the power to unite others.

- 16) Pages, The Society. “Unity for What? The Togetherness Created by Sports.” Engaging Sports, 2017, [thesocietypages.org/engagingsports/2017/01/23/unity-for-what-the-togetherness-created-by-sports/](https://thesocietypages.org/engagingsports/2017/01/23/unity-for-what-the-togetherness-created-by-sports/).

This article highlights a speech that President Obama gave on Dr Martin Luther King Jr day. President Obama was reflecting on his experiences with race and unity, and highlighted ways in which sports can create unity among a group of people despite the major diversity issues that our world currently faces. Obama stated that “throughout history, sports have had power to bring us together, even when our country is divided” (Coakley). When we are all gathered at a game, our race, beliefs, and cultures suddenly do not matter anymore because everyone is cheering on the same team together in unity. Everyone desires the same outcome, and the celebration of a win is the same regardless of any social characteristics. It is also special to watch as players come from drastically different backgrounds to play for and represent the same team. Players celebrate wins not only as a personal achievement for themselves, but as an achievement that the team celebrates

with their city. This shared celebration is very special, and it has real power to create a temporary unity that can be shared by so many.

17) PDF: 31 Days to Build a Better Blog by Darren Rowse

Part of my honors project is to create an interactive website where viewers can watch interviews, read posts, engage in conversation about concepts of race in the Memphis area, and how the Memphis Grizzlies Basketball team works to unite our city. Darren Rowse's *31 Days to Build a Better Blog*, is an ebook highlighting the different areas that should be incorporated into a website/blog in order for it to stand out among others. There were some very interesting points in this ebook, but a couple concepts particularly grabbed my attention. Rowse stated that when creating your blog, you should define what you want people to say about your blog as well as finding out what people say about your blog. The theme of your blog is the lasting impression that people will have of your blog and is what they will talk about with others. You need to make sure that you design and post content you want people to remember about your blog. Always have the audience in mind. It is equally as important to follow up with viewers to see their impression of your blog. You could think that you are expressing a particular message clearly, but it might not be resonating the same with your audience. Continual feedback is what keeps your blog post relevant. Another point Rowse makes is to ensure that your posts and content are easy to access and find. Viewers do not want to spend time trying to find content. Content needs to be organized and placed on the blog/website where it is easy for viewers to access the information. If content is easy to identify, then people will want to continue browsing on your site.

- 18) Perry, Elliot. "Mentoring a Game-Change for Memphis and Grizzlies." *The Commercial Appeal*, Memphis Commercial Appeal, 26 Oct. 2017

Elliot Perry, former Memphis Tiger and Memphis Grizzlies Foundation Board Chair, wrote an article in the Memphis Commercial Appeal explaining how the Memphis Grizzlies is not only a team in the NBA, but that they are a team compiled of players who are dedicated to making change to their community. He explains how the Grizzlies are aware of the racial inequality present in Memphis, which is why the team is choosing to respond through creating Grizzlies mentoring programs and foundations for children growing up in a challenging community. The Grizzlies' commitment to supporting the Memphis community has been notable, and the team has been recognized by ESPN and was even nominated for the ESPN Sports Humanitarian Awards. The Grizzlies knows that change can be made in Memphis, and realize that by using their platform, they can create a huge impact in the community.

- 19) Resolve, Davinci. "How to Use DaVinci Resolve 16: Beginner Editing Guide (2020)." *Motion Array*, 5 June 2020

Davinci Resolve is an editing platform that allows consumers to craft documentary style features and movies. This article walks the reader through basic steps of how to edit quality content on DaVinci Resolve. The reader is educated on concepts such as how to create a new project, add texts and titles, implement transitions, incorporate effects, and download music into the project timeline. This article also highlights how to edit videos such as working with color correction or volume control. These techniques are imperative to understand because they will contribute to making your video flawless but will also save you the time of trying to figure out how to operate the software while trying to create your product.

20) RISE. “*Mission Statement*” Rise, 2020 [www.risetowin.org/who-we-are/index.html#mission](http://www.risetowin.org/who-we-are/index.html#mission).

The Rise Initiative in Sports Equality a nonprofit organization that encourages the sports community to prioritize and practice social justice in order to eliminate racial discrimination. Founder, Stephen M Ross, was determined to create the nonprofit after witnessing negative acts of racism in the Miami community while working as chairman of the Miami Dolphins. His goal is to bring the sports community together in order to advance equality and respect towards one another. RISE has dedicated itself to educate the public through leadership programs and learning series, empowering athletes and coaches to use their voices in the midst of blatant racial tension, and to engage the community through podcast series and pop up events. The organization is proving that sports have the power to bond people together, and through this bond, people can work together to use the sports platform to advocate for social justice.

21) Sherman. “11 Benefits of an Interactive Website Design, Tips and Ideas to Inspire You.” Digital Marketing Blog, 27 Aug. 2019, [www.lyfemarketing.com/blog/interactive-website-design/](http://www.lyfemarketing.com/blog/interactive-website-design/).

Websites are important because they provide a platform for content creators to engage with their viewers. Consumers enjoy viewing websites, and interactions are becoming a critical component of the website experience. Website interactions “integrate software into the web page to encourage visitors with a more relevant experience” and are successful because it keeps the visitor engaged (Sherman). According to *Digital Marketing Blog*, “90% of consumers expect websites to have interactive self-service” because interactions create a meaningful user experience (Sherman). With this statistic in mind, it is important to consider the benefits of incorporating interactive elements onto a website. Interactions solidify an organization’s place at the top of the consumer’s mind. If the consumer is intrigued with the interaction experience, then they will remember your website, and continue to revisit the page. It has also been noted that Google can

identify website interaction. Google places websites at the top of the search page based upon visitor dwell time on the website and shares of the site. Website interactions can vary from engaging content (videos, blog posts, articles), to embedded videos, sharing options, Q&A, chat rooms, social media tags, and commenting sections. People remember entertaining content, therefore, creating memorable interactions on your website is a meaningful way to maintain viewer interest.

22) Solly, Meilan. “158 Resources for Understanding Systemic Racism in America.”

*Smithsonian.com*, Smithsonian Institution, 4 June 2020, [www.smithsonianmag.com/history/158-resources-understanding-systemic-racism-america-180975029/](http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/158-resources-understanding-systemic-racism-america-180975029/).

The Smithsonian is the world’s largest education and research complex and museum. Journalist and the Smithsonian’s assistant digital editor of humanities, Meilan Solly, wrote an informational article regarding the history of racism in America. This article covered and explained the long going problems of historical racial movements, systemic inequality, anti-black violence, protests, and intersectionality. Solly argued that most history textbooks do not accurately present the severity of historic racial events, therefore, she made it her goal to explain to the audience the true and authentic history of racism. The audience that Solly is speaking to is looking for accurate and informative information, and it is obvious that her information is reliable due to the of the plethora of quotations from historians and eyewitnesses present at the events in which she discusses.

23) Spears, Marc. “‘Black Lives Matter, People’: How the NBA's Social Justice Efforts Dominated the Season.” *The Undeclared*, The Undeclared, 14 Oct. 2020, [theundefeated.com/features/how-the-nba-social-justice-efforts-dominated-the-season/](http://theundefeated.com/features/how-the-nba-social-justice-efforts-dominated-the-season/).

This article was written by Marc J Spears, a senior NBA writer. Spears wrote about how the NBA made the decision to support the Black Lives Matter movement during the re-start of the 2019-2020 season. Social justice efforts “dominated the season” because players were finally given the platform to move the conversation of racism forward. The article mentioned the various efforts that the NBA enforced in order to ensure that players felt that their voices were being heard. For example, the NBA added “Black Lives Matter” to the floors of the gym and let players chose a phrase that advocated for social justice on the back of their jerseys. Players were able to speak on behalf of victims of racial injustice and were also able to advocate for social justice during interview sessions after games. This article provided specific quotes from players praising the idea of promoting the BLM movement onto the NBA platform, and it served as source identifying how players claimed that they would continue to use their platform to advocate for social justice. Sports are not just a source of entertainment. They provide a platform for athletes to be a voice for those who do not have the platform necessary to advocate for social justice.

- 24) Staff, EasyBib. “Annotated Bibliography: A Complete Guide for MLA & APA.” EasyBib, Chegg, 1 Jan. 2020, [www.easybib.com/guides/annotated-bibliographies/](http://www.easybib.com/guides/annotated-bibliographies/).

This article presents informative information on how to correctly format an annotated bibliography. The article was written by notable plagiarism check tool, EasyBib, an online source that guides students and professionals on how to correctly check formatting, grammar, and plagiarism errors. EasyBib is a reputable source that is recommended by many universities

and organizations throughout the country. The article emphasizes the importance of writing concise summarizations that evaluate the importance of the source while simultaneously noting the background of the author and why their work is trustworthy. The article also offers formatting guidelines that are expected of annotated bibliographies, including: double spaced line spacing, organization by topic, and single paragraph length.

- 25) . Thomas, Wendi. “Stop Using Basketball as a Band-Aid for Racial Progress.” *The Undeclared*, The Undeclared, 16 May 2017

This article takes an analytical look at why the NBA does not single handedly solve the racial tensions that are prominent in Memphis. Wendi Thomas is an author dedicated to covering stories of inequality in the Memphis area, and she speaks about how although to some people it may seem that the Grizzlies have the power to unite everyone under one roof during game time, this unification is only temporary. She shares great statistics that prove that Memphis’ racial diversity isn’t even represented at Grizzlies games. Thomas suggests that if the NBA decided to take a more dedicated approach to promoting racial equality during their games, then maybe such a powerful message coming from a notable source would begin to create an even more significant impact in the Memphis community.

- 26) ) University of Memphis. “*Early Memphis.*” Early Memphis - Ben Hooks Institute - The University of Memphis, 2019, [www.memphis.edu/benhooks/mapping-civil-rights/early-memphis.php](http://www.memphis.edu/benhooks/mapping-civil-rights/early-memphis.php).

This article explains the history of racial injustice in Memphis. The *Ben Hooks Institute for Social Change* is an organization dedicated to studying and teaching the history of civil rights as well as promoting social change in the Memphis community. The University of Memphis

presented the research of the harsh yet moving racial history on their website in order to educate the Memphis community of the historic events that have shaped the city. The article began by explaining how racial tensions were first developed following the establishment of the city. The audience is then presented with a timeline of information explaining how racial tensions evolved during events such as the Civil War, the Sanitation Workers Strike, and Dr. Martin Luther King protests. The article concludes with an analysis of current racial tensions in Memphis.

27) Varlas, John. "Varlas: High School Sports Unite Our Community, and We're Here to Tell You about It." *Memphis Local, Sports, Business & Food News | Daily Memphian*, The Daily Memphian, 28 May 2020

John Varlas has covered high school sports in the Memphis area for over 20 years. He has committed his career to establishing relationships with every Memphis high school and its players. In this article, Varlas speaks about how the Memphis community is troubled with racial inequality that needs to be fixed, but he believes that high school sports are a common ground of unity in the Memphis area. He claims that although high school sports are competitive in Memphis, he watches as everyone comes together before and after games to act as one community. We are a community that is tightly knitted through sport, and he loves to see the passion that all families and players bring to the playing grounds. He believes that change is needed in Memphis in order to move forward, but he concludes that if this change is made possible, then our community can set an example to others that proves unity and peace can overcome racism.

28) Wesson, Kate. "How To Take Stunning Photos With Your iPhone 11 Camera." *iPhone Photography School*, 10 Dec. 2019, [iphonophotographyschool.com/iphone-11-camera/](https://iphonophotographyschool.com/iphone-11-camera/).

This article was written by iPhone Photography School, a website dedicated to helping people navigate how to take stunning and creative pictures with their iPhones. I realized that it would be necessary to understand how to take quality pictures with my camera in order to post the best content on my website. This article explained the difference between a wide, ultra-wide, and telephoto lense shot and explained how to use the new “night mode” feature. I also learned about a new feature on the iPhone called “deep fusion” that puts more texture and detail into photos. The website even provided video tutorials on how to properly focus your camera, and how to use all of the 12 techniques that the article listed

29) Wheeler, Wyatt. *Memphis Grizzlies Forward Anthony Tolliver on NBA Boycott, Systemic Racism in America*, 28 Aug. 2020, [www.msn.com/en-us/sports/nba/memphis-grizzlies-forward-anthony-tolliver-on-nba-boycott-systemic-racism-in-america/ar-BB18rBQ8](http://www.msn.com/en-us/sports/nba/memphis-grizzlies-forward-anthony-tolliver-on-nba-boycott-systemic-racism-in-america/ar-BB18rBQ8).

This article was written by Wyatt Wheeler who reports for the news outlet, *News-leader*. Wyatt interviewed Memphis Grizzlies forward, Andrew Tolliver, on his viewpoint about how he viewed the NBA’s efforts in promoting the Black Lives Matter movement during the continued season in The Bubble. Tolliver has played in the NBA for 11 years and has seen how the NBA has developed its attitude towards promoting racial justice. This article was informative because it provided a viewpoint of a Memphis player, and how he feels that racism and sports intersect. Tolliver stated that NBA players respected that the Bubble was working to incorporate advocacy for the BLM movement, but it is only the beginning to a strong movement. Players have had built up feelings of frustration for years, and with the blatant acts of brutality and racism occurring right before the NBA was supposed to re-start this past season, it seemed to be the most fitting opportunity for players to use their platform to advocate for social justice. Race and sport are

beginning to walk hand in hand because players finally have the opportunity to use their voice to advocate for social justice.

### 30) Wins and Losses” Podcast with Clay Travis

*Wins and Losses* is a podcast series hosted by Clay Travis, host of “Outkick the Coverage” segment hosted on Fox Sports Radio. Travis created a podcast series that interviews different public figures in order to identify and discuss key moments of wins and losses throughout their lives. In this particular podcast, Travis is joined by SEC Network personality, Paul Finebaum, who talked about his journey in becoming a journalist and how his upbringing in Memphis shaped his career. Finebaum was eleven years old and living in Memphis when Dr. King was assassinated in 1968, which took a complete toll on the city. However, Finebaum speaks on how Memphis State going to the NCAA basketball championship game in 1973 had the power to single handedly unite the city once again. He discusses how his career is devoted to creating the greatest content possible to present to his audience in order to unify them through the discussion and shared love for sports.

### **901 Project Website**

The second component to my honors project was creating a multimedia website to house my research. I included the link to my website below.

Link to Site: <https://brookgoodman.wixsite.com/the901project>