



Questions for Classroom Discussion

A Valuable Athlete

- **How is money made and spent in college sports? What role do the student athletes play?**
 - ⇒ Consider the revenue sources for major college sports like basketball and football, such as TV contracts, ticket sales, advertising, merchandise, and even the video game market
 - ⇒ Consider the high costs to run major sports programs, such as building and maintaining the stadiums and facilities, paying the coaches and staff, organizing the events, and taking care of the athletes (travel, medical treatment, tutoring, etc.)
 - ⇒ Consider that college sports would not exist without the athletes... and at the same time, college athletes would not exist without the success of the programs

- **What are reasons why college athletes SHOULD be paid?**
 - ⇒ Consider the time and extra work that is required of college athletes beyond what is required of the typical students
 - ⇒ Consider that the effort and talent of the athletes is what people are paying to come see and watch on television... they are the stars of the entire production
 - ⇒ Consider that athletes are risking their bodies in collegiate sports, and if they get hurt then they will not be able to play professionally (thus missing out on any opportunity to make money)

- **What are reasons why college athletes SHOULD NOT be paid?**
 - ⇒ Consider that they are already getting “paid” through a scholarship that pays their tuition, as well as the chance to travel, play the game, and be cheered and adored by thousands of fans
 - ⇒ Consider that the contract negotiations for college athletes would be extremely complicated... what if an athlete wants to transfer, or if he is not as good as he was expected to be
 - ⇒ Consider the advantage that would be given to large “money-making” programs who could easily pay for the best athletes
 - ⇒ Consider athletes in smaller programs (golf, baseball, wrestling) who might also demand payment... as well as female athletes