Name: _____ Date: _____

Changing Names - Changing Society

Code: HIG: LA, SS

..."And it is said some of them traded ammunition, powder, ect. to the redskins for their stolen property, gold dust, etc." Dr. John FitzGerald

"What made Joseph so hostile was the killing of some of their women and children by accident as we were told not to shoot the squaws and I honestly can say it was not done on purpose."

Homer Coon, Private 7th Infantry

"I was told by one of Colonel Gibbon's officers that the squaws were not shot at until two officers were wounded by them and a soldier or two killed..." John FitzGerald

These quotations present the student with information about cultural sensitivity. The use of terms redskins, squaws and savages are in question today in sport mascots. **Where do you stand?** Do you think pro-teams, colleges, universities and high schools should be allowed to choose the mascot of their choice or should they change their mascots? Why do you suppose some teams continue to use race-based mascots that are offensive to many Native Americans? Many landmarks along the trail reflect these derogatory names. Should these names be removed from current landmarks such as creeks, ridges, mountains, etc?

Legislation (House Bill 412) was passed in Montana to remove the word "squaw" from geographical locations and sites. Dr. Hennrietta Mann, a Northern Cheyenne wrote an article that arose from her research on the word "squaw."

She traced the origin of the word, which came from the Mohawk (Iroquois) word Otiskwaw, which means female genitalia. The fur traders in the late 1700's and early 1800's corrupted the word and shortened it to squaw, which she says indicates what the fur traders wanted from women. This is an extremely derogatory term. Other states are now considering changing names with derogatory meanings.

Directions: Write your position below to support your opinion. Your paper must include at least 3 points to support your position.

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