

Faith and Football: Group Assignment

Essential Question

In light of the ethical and cultural critiques of the NFL as well as the excess and cultural dysfunctions associated with football, what—if anything—is the religious and spiritual significance to the experience of playing football or being a fan? Are the critiques of the NFL—perpetuated by the media—in vain?

Objective: to thoughtfully and critically examine this question... debate and discuss

Information: Class will be divided into two groups, one to represent the AFC Champs and the NFC Champs! **Chiefs vs. Eagles**

Dividing up the work:

1. Team Captains: two people

Nominate two **team captains**! He or she will be in charge of collating the presentation (more or less), introducing the group, making edits as needed and filling in for anyone who might be gone on the day of the presentation.

2. The players: Group of four people

- a. Choose **6 players of your choice** to profile. What should be known about them beyond their position, height & weight? What is interesting about them as an athlete and a person? Maybe you have met him...have a personal anecdote.
- b. For **4 of these players** you are tasked with finding out more about their **faith** life. They need to be religious (though not necessarily Christian). How do they practice their faith? How do they speak about it? What are their core values/beliefs? How is this evident in the game? to teammates? To the public?

3. Great Plays: Two people

Highlight and share with the class **three great plays** from the season (regular or post-season). Give us background and any necessary context. Feel free to teach us about football at this moment.

- Why does this stand out for you? *How does it inspire that sense of awe? What in heaven's sake is going on?*

4. **The Coach and Coaching Staff:** two people
 - a. What is significant about his leadership? What is his background? Personal information? Are you a fan of this coach? why or why not?
 - b. Sometimes coaching staffs have high profile offensive/defensive coordinators. Some teams have female assistant coaches. Anything interesting?
5. **Varia:** four people
 - a. **The Team:** What are the accomplishments of this team? Perhaps you want to put that in a historical context. Maybe it's this team's "story."
 - b. **The City/Fandom:** associated with this team. *What are their struggles? successes? What is the history between the team & the city? Describe the teams' fans—what are they known for?*
 - c. Research **charitable work** of either the players or the team. *What did you find inspiring? Unique? Important? You might look for a video to illustrate this*
 - d. Your prediction—what is the media saying?

6. Captains to Close

What else, if anything, do you want us to know? Have fun with this!

Bring to a conclusion: What are your take-aways from this assignment?

We will present Wednesday, February 5. On Thursday you are required to bring either an outstanding Super Bowl snack to share with the class, **a can of food for the Food Bank** or BOTH!.

Of Note After This Presentation: You will each write a one-page synthesis paper, articulating what you learned and asking you to respond to the EQ

We have 27 total students in the class

Eagles (14):

Chiefs (14):

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	Excellent	Good	Fair	Weak
Preparation: 5 from all group members				
Presentation: 15				
Material is presented in an interesting way, visuals are effective				
Organized and logical				
Speakers teach, make eye contact, refer to notes (don't re-read all that's on the slide), and speak slowly, loudly and reference other group members				
Content: 10				
All questions are answered and move beyond the ordinary. Engage critical and creative thinking				
TOTAL				