

Discussion Strategies for College Sports

Strategy #1: Whole Class: 4 Corners: Place a statement on the screen, and have students move the corner that most connects to their own opinion about the topic.

College sports have gotten better since paying athletes.

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

Strategy #2: Small Group Discussion S-I-T Protocol: Create 3 questions for students to discuss using the words: [surprising](#), [interesting](#), and [troubling](#).

Discuss the following questions with your group.

- What is something **surprising** you heard?
- What is an **interesting** impact of these changes on athletes, coaches, teams, and sports programs?
- What do you find most **troubling**?

Strategy #3: Small Group: You Decide!: Give students a list of events, effects, issues, and have them decide which one had the biggest impact.

Major Events Changing College Sports

2018 – NCAA Introduces the Transfer Portal: The transfer portal is created to streamline how athletes transfer between schools.

2019 – California Passes the Fair Pay to Play Act: California becomes the first state to pass a law allowing college athletes to profit from their name, image, and likeness (NIL).

2021 – NCAA Adopts Interim NIL Policy: The NCAA suspends its rules prohibiting NIL deals after pressure from states and legal threats. Athletes nationwide can now sign endorsements, get sponsorships, and earn money legally while in college.

2022–2023 – Conference Realignment Accelerates: Driven by massive media rights deals, many schools announce moves to new conferences.

2024 – NCAA Reaches \$2.8 Billion Settlement in House v. NCAA: The NCAA allows revenue sharing from universities to current athletes and back pay for some former athletes.

Which event do you think had the greatest impact on college sports today, and why?

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