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NFL V. PSC Students

In recent news, football players everywhere are kneeling and raising a fist during the National Anthem. This protest is known as “Trump vs. The NFL.”

It has been somewhat of a controversy across the nation, affecting people differently. Most right-wing conservatives believe it is ungrateful that football players profit so much in this country from “playing ball” and in return, disrespect our flag, country and national anthem.

On the other hand, left-wing liberals think they are executing their first amendment right of freedom of speech, and agree with what they are protesting against—racial injustice.

“Players who protest should be fired or suspended,” says President Donald Trump.

“I think that it is a first amendment right that you should be able to if you want to, not stand or say the pledge of allegiance or not sing to the anthem,” said Pensacola State College student Abigail Johnson.

In 2016, Colin Kaepernick first sat during the National Anthem in 2016 to protest against police brutality and the oppression black people were facing. Kaepernick, has said he refused to honor a song or "show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color."

They have the right yes, but getting the flag involved is over their situation,” says PSC student Aden Davis.

Johnson explains that being part of a country is a choice and you should have the ability to choose. “If you force people to be loyal to a country, they’re not going to want to. Being loyal and respecting your country should be something that you want to do. That’s true allegiance,” says Johnson.

PSC student, Kevin, does not listen to the news. “I feel like the president should just focus on more important things, (the football players) are just taking advantage of their situation by protesting.

PSC’s athletes may or may not agree with these NFL players and be unsure of how they should act. They may not want negative press to affect their potential athletic opportunities.

“I think it might be a personal choice, if you’re willing to understand how it might affect your future in this field. What if playing pro football has always been your dream? I know that for some of my dreams I might be able to slide on my morals,” Johnson says.

This rebellious act has been linked to players refusing to visit the White House upon invitation. “It’s all a show,” says Davis. “Just because you have the right does not mean it is right.”