

Sports: Illustrating the 3 Perspectives

In the blanks provided, identify which of the three perspectives is represented by each statement.

Label "F" for Functionalist Perspective, "C" for Conflict Perspective & "SI" for Symbolic Interactionist Perspective.

- _____ Sports are beneficial to society
- _____ Sports are conducive to success in other areas of life.
- _____ Experience participating in athletics will prepare you for the future.
- _____ Sports enhance health and happiness.
- _____ Sports inspire athletes to do their utmost to win, thereby helping them to develop such qualities as skill and ability.
- _____ Spectators at athletic events also learn the importance of hard work, playing by the rules and working as a team player.
- _____ Participation in sports can be way of having fun with friends.
- _____ Participation in athletics often releases tension, anger, anxiety and depression.
- _____ Sports fans can find pleasure in filling their leisure time by watching/attending events.
- _____ Sports contribute to the social order and stability because sports serve as an integrating force for society as a whole.
- _____ Sports are harmful to society
- _____ Sports are in effect a social mechanism for uniting potentially disunited members of society.
- _____ Athletes can identify with their fans, their community and their country.
- _____ Athletics can reflect the conflict between the interests of the relatively powerful and those of the powerless (ie: team owners vs. sports audience)
- _____ Involvement in sports as spectators tends to distract low-paid or unemployed workers.
- _____ Sports reinforce social, gender and racial inequalities in society.
- _____ The overemphasis on competition and winning has caused loss of the original elements of play and fun in sporting activities.
- _____ "Masculine" sports are more likely to cause fan violence than "feminine" sports.
- _____ Some people are deterred from participating in sports because of the emphasis on competition & winning. Many people instead choose to sit & watch, rather than participate.

- _____ Sports have become big business, with powerful owners of professional teams exploiting the public and government.
- _____ Most colleges and universities spend more money funding men's sports, especially football and basketball, than on women's athletics.
- _____ The presence of gender bias in society has often led parents to discourage girls from playing basketball, soccer, and other so-called "males" sports.
- _____ Men are more likely to get top management and coaching jobs (in both men's and women's programs)
- _____ Media often describes female athletes as "pretty," "slim," or "attractive," while men are often referred to as "tough," "great," or "brilliant".
- _____ There is an absence of blacks in top positions as owners, managers and coaches of professional teams.
- _____ Today the enormous attention given by the white-dominated media to African American superstars further encourages many poor African American youth to give their all to athletics. This concentration on athletics could then divert attention from academics.
- _____ If athletes define a game as one that they will win, they will likely win it.
- _____ Many coaches tell players that they are winners so they will only think of winning and never about the possibility of losing. Chances are greater that they will win, because the image of themselves as winners will force them to concentrate only on winning.
- _____ Children under age 10, often evaluate how "good" or "bad" they are at a sport from what their significant others (parents, teachers and coaches) say to them.
- _____ In interacting with an African American athlete, a coach tends to stereotype the athlete as naturally gifted in sports. This stereotype has a significant impact on how the coach interacts with the athlete.