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Language Arts 1-2

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District Writing Assessment

"The Star-Spangled Banner" is the national anthem for the United States of America. Although you are supposed to stand and take your right hand over your heart. NFL football players kneel which causes major conflicts. Throughout many articles, writers debate whether football players including Colin Kaepernick are disrespecting the flag when kneeling or not. There are many reasons why people find the NFL players disrespecting for NFL players to take a knee during the national anthem as a sign of protest because they have the right to protest, are protected by the First Amendment, and they are not disturbing anyone.

First of all, the NFL players are not disrespecting the flag because they have the right to protest. This trend of kneeling mostly grew because of the famous NFL player Colin Kaepernick. Kneeling during the national anthem shows a sign of protest against racial injustice and police brutality. These football players have the right to protest against this. According to Document A, the writer states, "President Obama said Kaepernick was exercising his constitutional right to make a statement." Exercising his totally fine. If you wanted something to stop, would you want it to spread so people can see the message you are giving out. Many people find kneeling disrespecting the people who have served in the military which is true, but they are not doing so. According to Document A, the writer states, "We just decided to take a knee and pray for the people who have been affected and just pray for the people in general." The football players are not disrespecting the people who have served in the military. Also, NFL football

players have the right to kneel simply because they can. In conclusion, the NFL football players have the right to protest.

Secondly, the NFL players are not disrespecting the flag because it does not cause disturbance. People find that kneeling can be disturbing, they they do not intend it to be disturbing. Kneeling spreads protesting against racial injustice and police brutality. This message in general does not disturb anyone, In Document A, the author writes, "We are not trying to disrespect the flag or be a distraction to the team, but as men we thought we had the right to stand up for what we believe in, and we demonstrated it." These football players are not disrespecting anyone. If they were, why would they? Many people say that their form is off which is true according to Document C, But what other form will they conduct. I just think that kneeling is a perfect way to perform silence protest. If you look in deeper. The people who support the kneeling are the same race as the NFL players. In the survey poll in Document C, the infographic shows, "Only 24% of white Americans support the 49ers quarterback and his protest." If you really think about it, the military is mixed in race. Why would the majority of white Americans find kneeling disrespectful towards the people who have served the military In other words, why do they not support the football players silent protest? In short, the NFL players are not causing disturbance towards anyone.

Lastly, the NFL players are not disrespecting the flag because they are constitutionally protected. The football players have the right to pray. They are protected by the first amendment. According to Document A, the author states, "Not standing for the national anthem is a legal form of peaceful protest, which is a First Amendment right." There is no one that can stop these football players from praying or kneeling. There are limits to the freedom that they possess, but

they are not passing it. Also, they are not only protected by the freedom of religion, but are protected by all five rights. According to Document B, the writer states, "It forbids Congress from both promoting one religion over others and also restricting and individuals religions practice." Promoting your thoughts is breaking the First Amendment. These football players are not breaking the rule. In conclusion, the NFL football players are not disrespecting the flag because they are constitutionally protected.

To sum it up, the NFL players are not disrespecting the flag because they have the right to protest, are not causing any disturbance, and because they are constitutionally protected. They have the right to protest mainly because they do not cause harm and because the are protected by the law. People find disturbance within them but do not disturb anyone. They are constitutionally protected because of the First Amendment. The NFL players are not disrespecting the flag.

