

Abandoning Offensive Mascots: A Toolkit

The @Work Toolkit is a collection of additional resources and tips that might be useful when discussing the topic with your team.

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“Based on responses to Project Implicit questions, prejudice against Native Americans increased in the year after a mascot was removed — specifically among Ohio residents after the discontinuation of Chief Wahoo; and, after the removal of Chief Illiniwek, among residents not only of Illinois, but also among those of all other states.”

Source: [University of Washington and Project Implicit](#)

Definitions

[National School Mascot Tracking Database](#) – NCAI (National Congress of American Indians) initiative tracking K-12 schools native themed school mascots. This database enables them to identify, track, engage and educate those schools that are having active conversations about whether and how to change their mascots.

How to talk about racist legacies

Take on the role of community archivist. Some institutions continue to uphold monuments and memorials to historical figures that uphold oppressive views in the U.S. For example, the statue of Robert E. Lee in Richmond, Virginia, will [be removed to the city's Black History Museum](#) for further input from citizens.

Take on the role of a researcher of your own community: What are some historical relics in your city or town? Make a list of these relics. They might take the form of statues, plaques, mascots, team names, historic sites, or memorials. In short, these items are any material tribute to the past. Choose one item on your list. Conduct some research on this relic. Who is being celebrated? What do you learn about this person or event? What historical background, if any, can you dig up? Then, start to think critically about this relic: How do you think we might rethink this relic in terms of our present? What stories does this relic leave out? How might it represent a more inclusive story of your community?