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## WHICH POINT ARE WE MISSING?

By Stephen L. Bakke  September 27, 2017



*Here's what provoked me:*

*That "taking a knee" thing.*

*Here's my response:*

### **Which Point Are We Missing?**

Opponents of athletes "taking a knee" during the national anthem are told they are "missing the point." I suggest that it's impossible to have a debate if the debate's "premise" constantly changes.

Colin Kaepernick clearly defining his goal. He stated he was exercising free-speech and that our flag is nothing more than a representation of injustice in our country. He expressed disdain for the police by wearing stockings during a game which depicted policemen as pigs. He expressed his belief that racist killings of black men by police was rampant.

But now, athletes and their supporters say this has nothing to do with dishonoring the flag. They still admit to using visibility to shine a light on police brutality. I believe protesters put their argument in jeopardy when it isn't backed up by facts.

In 2015, with 318 million people in the U.S., only about (some variation in reported numbers) 4 unarmed black men were killed by white cops. Yes, that's too many. But are these players using their platform optimally? The number of black homicide victims is almost 8,000, and virtually all of those are killed by black men. Let's focus on reducing that tragic statistic!