

Handout 2: Answer Key

What is equality in sports?

Directions: Consider the following propositions. Brainstorm some of the pros and cons of each.

	Pros	Cons
1. Girls can play sports, but not “masculine” ones like soccer, basketball, or track. Girls are only allowed to play “feminine” sports including volleyball, gymnastics, and cheerleading.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Some might like how this preserves traditional gender roles and expectations</i> - <i>Gives girls an area where they are the best</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Confines students based on gender stereotypes</i> - <i>Does not allow diversity of interest and ability</i>
2. Girls are allowed to play on the same sports team as boys. Girls have to compete against boys on the merits; girls can play only if they make the team.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Might allow girls to prove that they are just as physically capable as boys</i> - <i>Both genders treated exactly the same; no assumptions made</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Girls might not make the cut very often because of differing physical abilities or coach bias</i> - <i>Fewer girls than boys may end up playing sports</i>
3. Girls are allowed to play on the same sports team as boys, and there’s a minimum number of girls and boys required on each team. (E.g. team of 12 must have at least 3 boys and at least 3 girls).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Gives girls a chance to play with boys, and beat the stereotypes that they don't belong</i> - <i>Might be positive to teach boys how to play with girls, respect female athletes</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Might “tone down” the competitiveness or physicality found in all-boys games</i> - <i>Spots might be filled by unskilled athletes of a particular gender just to meet the quota</i>
4. Girls are allowed to play on the same sports team as boys, and the team must be split evenly between genders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Would allow girls to participate more meaningfully; not an isolated minority</i> - <i>Both genders equally represented on each team</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Spots might be filled by athletes of a particular gender just to meet the quota, not based on ability/merit</i> - <i>Some sports teams might get cut because they can't find enough boys or girls to create half of a team</i>
5. Girls and boys play on separate teams, and are allowed to play any sport that has enough students interested in that sport to create a full team.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>School follows the students' lead instead of imposing requirements; only creates teams where there's enough interest. Most economical?</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Some students might be excluded from the sport they're interested in if they can't gather enough interest from their peers of the same gender</i>
6. Girls and boys have equally-resourced separate sports teams with the same number of spots.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Gives programs the opportunity to grow, even if interest is low at first</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Might be a waste of money if there just isn't enough interest from one of the genders</i>