



Let's Study About...

Olympic Issues



War



- The ancient Greeks imposed an “Olympic Truce” which banned all fighting, conflict and war during the Olympic Games.
- The Olympics were cancelled three times in the 20th Century (in 1916, 1940 and 1944) because of World War I and World War II.

Politics



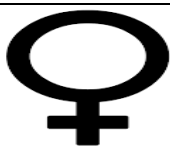
- Fifty Western nations boycotted the Moscow Olympics in 1980 to protest the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan.
- In return, the USSR boycotted the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984.
- Taiwan competes as “Chinese Taipei” due to pressure by China

Terrorism



- At the 1972 Olympics in Munich, Arab terrorists invaded the Olympic village and killed 11 members of the Israeli team.
- At the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, USA, a bomb went off in the Olympic Park killing 2 people and injuring 111 others.

Sexism



- Only men could take part in the Olympic Games in ancient Greece.
- No women participated in the first modern games in 1896.
- Women weren't allowed to run in the marathon until 1984.
- The Saudi Arabia Olympic team first included women in 2012.

Racism



- Adolf Hitler hosted the 1936 Berlin Olympics in Nazi Germany and believed it would prove that the white race was superior.
- South Africa was banned from the Olympics from 1964 until 1988 because its racist apartheid system discriminated against Blacks.
- Black athletes protested against racism at the 1968 Olympics.

Money



- Hosting the games is expensive and a major burden on host nations.
- The Olympics value the ideals of amateurism. Yet medal winners earn big money and nations spend large amounts on their teams.
- The Games have become very commercialized over the years.
- Bribery and corruption is a problem when selecting host cities.

Drugs



- Athletes come under intense pressure to use illegal drugs in order to win medals for their countries or to become rich and famous.
- East German athletes of the 1980s damaged their health by doping.
- Athletes from nations such as Russia have been banned for drugs.

Fairness



- Rich nations spend lots of money to buy the best coaches, equipment and training for their athletes, so of course they win medals.
- Poor nations can't afford to do this, so their athletes don't have the same chances that athletes from rich nations have. That's not fair.