Spina 1

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Dehumanization of Humans

The use of Native American mascots is not only racist but detrimental to Native American culture. While many people say that it is a source of pride and honor, it is not. It is ridiculing and degrading their culture through names, symbols, and even costumes worn at the games. When the mascots are Redskins and Indians it’s mocking the natives because of what they look like. Also when the symbols and costumes are people with black hair, braids, feathers, and beads it is dehumanizing them, making people think that’s what they are and what they look like. In her article titled “Sorry for not being a Stereotype” by Rita Pyrillis, a Native American writer for the Chicago Sun-Times says, “People insist on telling me when to be honored or offended, or how I should look or talk or dance. I will keep telling them otherwise.” It shows that this dehumanizing symbols need to stop because she and the natives like her are getting stereotyped by these images. No culture should have to deal with racist and dehumanizing symbols, not even for sports.