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# TITLE IX: PREVENTING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS AND EDUCATION?

Word Generation - Unit 2.06

## Focus Words

inequity | resources | adequate | illustrate | disproportionate



## Weekly Passage

Mia Hamm is considered the world's best all-around women's soccer player. She has scored more international goals in her career than any other player, male or female. Mia helped the U.S. national soccer team win the gold medal in the 1996 Olympic Games.

Hamm was born in 1972, the same year the U.S. government passed a law called Title IX. The law forbids discrimination against girls or women in schools or colleges that receive money from the U.S. government.

In 1971, the year before Mia was born, fewer than 300,000 high school girls participated in school sports. But by 1997 that number had grown to over 2.4 million. Some people think that Title IX led to better, or more adequate, representation of women in colleges. For example, the year Mia Hamm was born, only 9% of medical degrees were earned by women. But by 1994, twenty-two years later, that percentage jumped to 38%. Many say that these examples

illustrate how important it is to have laws that give both men and women the same opportunities in athletics as well as in college admissions.

A recent case highlights the inequities of college funding for female sports. A judge ordered Indiana University of Pennsylvania to restore funding for women's gymnastics and field hockey. The university wanted to focus its resources or funding on men's football. But the judge said that money problems and a desire for football prestige were not excuses for violating Title IX.

But is it appropriate for judges and lawyers to determine the sports programs at colleges? Some people feel that colleges know how to make the best decisions for their particular situations and that the law should be more flexible.

What do you think? At your school is there a disproportionate representation of boys or girls on your sports teams? In other programs?



**Unit 2.06**

# **Title IX: Preventing discrimination against girls and women in sports and education?** **Focus Word Chart**

Word	Meaning	Forms	Examples of Use	Notes
inequity	(n.) - lack of equality; unfairness			
resources	(n.) - supplies of money or helpful items			
adequate	(adj.) - as much as necessary			
illustrate	(v.) - demonstrate			
disproportionate	(adj.) - too large or too small in comparison to other things			



# Title IX: Preventing discrimination against girls and women in sports and education?

## Problem of the Week



Title IX was passed to end gender **inequity** in universities and other places that get public money. People disagree about what it means. What does it mean to give **adequate** support to both genders? What does proportionate representation mean? If more men than women play sports at a public university, is this **disproportionate** representation automatically a violation of Title IX? Or is it only a violation if female athletes are being denied a chance to play? At some colleges, some men's teams were cut so that **resources** could be given to new women's teams. Some people argue that men's and women's interest level should be considered. If fewer women than men want to play sports, they say, then it should be okay to have fewer women's teams.

The problems below **illustrate** two different ways to think about proportionate representation. In Option 1, a school thinks in terms of numbers. In Option 2, a school thinks in terms of interest level.

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**Option 1:** At University X, the student body consists of 8,000 men and 8,500 women. Three hundred men play a varsity sport. This is 3.75% of male students. If University X wants the number of women playing varsity sports to be proportional to the number of men, how many women would have to play?

- A) 300
- B) 310
- C) 319
- D) 331

**Option 2:** To be in compliance with Title IX, schools have to show progress towards equity. At University Y, the student body consists of 10,000 men and 10,000 women. Five hundred men play varsity sports, and 150 women. A poll of the student body showed that twice as many men as women are interested in playing sports. Therefore, the athletic department wants to increase the number of female athletes by 20% each year until there are at least 250 female athletes. How many years will it take?

**Discussion Question:** Does Title IX create new **inequities** in college sports? Some schools have cut men's teams to fund women's teams. Title IX opponents say that this helps only a few women, and inflicts **disproportionate** harm on male athletes in sports that don't earn a lot of money, like wrestling or men's gymnastics. Title IX supporters disagree. They point out that for years, far more **resources** have been given to men's sports than women's sports. If more men want to play sports, this just **illustrates** the consequences of past inequity. To give today's women **adequate** opportunities to play sports, they must be given equal funding. What do you think? Is it okay to cut a men's sport to fund a women's sport? If not, where should the money come from?



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## Debating the Issue

### I. Get ready...

Pick one of these positions (or create your own).

**A** Money that colleges make for selling tickets or television rights for popular men's sports such as football should benefit all student sports programs, especially women's sports teams that don't get as much attention.

**B** Female and male student athletes should be treated equally. They should get the same money and the same programs. Schools should be penalized if they break the law.

**C** Title IX is not a good law because men and women are not the same. Schools should be allowed to devote more resources to one or the other. The law is too strict.

**D** Since most major professional sports leagues are for men, colleges should also focus on sports programs for men. Title IX should be overturned.

**E** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Get set...

Be ready to provide evidence to back up your position during your class discussion or debate. Jot down a few quick notes:

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# GO!

Be a strong participant by using phrases like these.

*I believe that...*

*I agree with you because. . .*

*You make a good point, but have you considered...*

*Can you show me evidence in the text that supports what you said?*



## Unit 2.06

# Title IX: Preventing discrimination against girls and women in sports and education?

### Science Activity



This activity is designed to help you practice thinking like a scientist and to use this week's focus words. Sometimes the data are based on real research, but they should never be considered true or factual.

“Our school has limited **resources**,” says Professor Seemy. “What if our school community, males AND females, chooses to fund boys’ sports **disproportionately**? Shouldn’t we have the right to make that choice?”

“**Inequity** in school sports puts girls’ health at risk,” says Professor Kahn. “Girls who don’t play sports are more likely to smoke. They are also more likely to become teen mothers. These facts **illustrate** the importance of Title IX. Girls’ sports deserve **adequate** funding.”

Professor Seemy says, “Let’s check that claim about smoking - right here in our classrooms!”

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### Question:

Are girls who play sports less likely to smoke?

### Hypothesis:

Girls who play sports will be less likely to smoke.

### Materials:

- ▶ 100 middle school girls



**Procedure:**

1. Ask each girl if she plays sports.
2. Ask each girl if she smokes.
3. Calculate the percentage of athletes and non-athletes who smoke.

**Data:**

	Percentage who smoke
Athletes (Play Sports)	5%
Non-Athletes (Do Not Play Sports)	13%

**Conclusion:**

Is the hypothesis supported or not by the data?

What evidence supports your conclusion?

How would you make this a better study?





Support your position with clear reasons and specific examples. Try to use relevant words from the Word Generation list in your response.

inequity | resources | adequate |  
illustrate | disproportionate

Check off what you accomplished:

- ☐ Stated my own position
- ☐ Included 1 focus word

- ☐ Stated my own position clearly
- ☐ Included 1-2 arguments
- ☐ Included 1-2 focus words

- ☐ Stated my own position clearly
- ☐ Included 1-2 arguments
- ☐ Included 1 counterargument
- ☐ Used 2-5 focus words



[illegible]