Revision: I reworked the reference to Malcolm X article being careful to use the correct quote and my reaction to the words of Malcolm X. I also added a paragraph explaining how my African upbringing taught me the best way to stand up to Derrick even though I was so young and new to the school.

Amadou Diallo

Professor Wu

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October 11, 2021

Unit 1 Final Draft Education Narrative

**Proud African Muslim**

Muslim and African are two important qualities that identifiy myself and always make me proud. I learned the importance of my culture at an early age. When I was three years old, my parents decided to send me to Guinea where they were raised. This was the first time I left my birthplace (NYC) to go to the home where all my ancestors were raised. Since I was only three years old, I don’t remember every single moment in detail, but the formative moments stand out. I’m lucky to have spent two years there, because I will always cherish these memories to guide me as I get older.

Living in Guinea, I was able to learn about Islam and my native language, Fulani. Fulani was actually my first language. That was the only language spoken to me in Africa. I was only 3 years old. My grandma was mostly the reason why I knew the importance of my religion. She would always talk to me and play with me. Now that I look back, I still admire the way she carried herself. I respect her a lot. I still remember when I was at her house and she gave me some wise words.

“Si a jooli ha bimbi foufiki ah jenma aerie, a wallie nenma babama Allah jonate baraji ah walliti”, she said to me

I replied, “Mi joolei mujah mi walle nene eh baba wade!!!”

To translate, my grandma said, “If I pray everyday and help my parents, Allah(God) will keep sending me blessings and I’ll be happy as long as I live.”

I replied, “I’ll pray everyday and help my mom and dad, always.”

A takeaway I received from my time in Guinea was that I had more independence there than in NYC. Although I was very young, I had many responsibilities, and I was expected to carry them out. For example, I often went food shopping by myself, walking long distances to get to food stands. However, had I been living in NYC as a young child, my parents would have never allowed this because the very different environment would have been too unfamiliar to them, causing concern.

I felt very free and comfortable in Guinea. But unfortunately, because my parents wanted me to have a better life and a solid education, they decided to bring me back to NYC. Upon arriving here, I was forced to learn English, with the help of my family, and begin elementary school in this strange land. My unfamiliarity with this country’s culture made me feel rather uneasy. When I would play video games and do outdoor activities, it was with my brothers, cousins, and other Fulani friends who lived in my building. So, at least, I had some companionship with others from my culture.

In fact, having these brothers, cousins, and friends around taught me a lot about how to handle difficult situations. From all the fights I had had with them, I knew that violence does not solve very much. My parents punished us for fighting each other, taking away our TV and game privileges. During the times when we were being punished, we were forced to deal with each other and apologize to one another. Our parents made us explain to them and to each other why we had started fighting, and that we knew fighting was wrong. Going through this, I learned that fighting causes more problems than it solves, and that talking things out calmly with people is the best way to solve a problem.

My introduction to American culture began when I entered the first grade at Academic Leadership Charter School (ALCS) in the Bronx, NYC. At this time, I knew that I was experiencing a new and different world from that to which I had been accustomed. I was surrounded by mostly Hispanic and black kids, and I was intrigued by the prospect of engaging with those from distinctly American cultures. I was not the shy type, and I had a lot of energy, so making new friends was no problem at all.

In the second week of school, while in my favorite class, Gym, I was running and enjoying this activity. All of a sudden, Derrick, a popular, hip black American walked toward me, looking for trouble.

“You so-o-o ugly, you can never get a girl looking like that,” he yelled, smirking as other kids started to stare at us.

I angrily replied, “I can get your girl. You don’t know what you talking about!”

“Don’t make me laugh, clown. Can’t you see you just a AFRICAN BOOTY SCRATCHER!!!” Derrick retorted, laughing arrogantly with a few of my other classmates.

Without thinking I clenched my right fist and punched Derrick as hard as I could. The other kids started screaming and cheering while Derrick and I were throwing punches at each other. The teacher then rushed toward us to break up the fight.

After I had time to think and calm down, I still did not understand the meaning of what Derrick said. However, I did know the hostile intent behind those words, and I felt that he had no right to talk to me like that. I was certain that I needed to confront Derrick. Just like Malcolm X, I am quick to take action when I feel strongly about the need to do so. As he wrote in Chapter 11, “I've never been one for inaction. Everything I've ever felt strongly about, I've done something about.” Just like Malcolm did in that situation, I knew I would have to talk to Derrick because he was one of the popular kids and his opinion mattered to the other kids.

The next week after we had our fight, I decided to approach him about his words because I didn’t want to fight every time I saw him. I decided to try to talk to him instead of fighting, since fighting had only made things worse in my past experience. I knew to pick a time where teachers were not involved because they would just butt in, but the other students needed to see. The only time for that was recess. Derrick was at the basketball court with his friends, so that’s where I went.

As soon as I approached him I asked, “Why you call me a African booty scratcher?” in a calm tone.

“Because that’s what you are, simple!” he yelled back as several kids continued to stare at us.

“That’s not true. I’m just African. Stop acting stupid or we gonna fight all the time.”

“You not serious…” he said laughing as I stared at him with an unwavering expression showing him that I was serious.

He continued, “Alright, so what are you then?”

This was when I told him and all my classmates there about my culture and childhood and what makes me who I am. I had so much joy in my voice because I really am proud of my background. I told them about my time spent in Africa where there are street vendors and that as a small child, I would walk a lot of blocks by myself to get to them. I also described how my grandma taught me how to kill a chicken and goat, to cook them and how brave I felt. I even told my classmates about the holiday I celebrate, Eid. On Eid, we celebrate having fasted for 30 days from sunrise to sunset (which is Ramadan). Most people start fasting in their teenage years. On Eid all the muslims are dressed in nice and beautiful clothes and the adults we know give all the kids a lot of money. Just like on Halloween how kids go house to house for candy we would ask the adults for money and it’s traditional for them to give it to us.

Derrick looked at me with big eyes as if he heard the best story ever. I could tell right then that he had changed his view on me. He was happy and even said, “It’s cool” right along with the rest of my classmates. I learned that communication is very important in solving matters and I was glad I told him and my classmates about myself and culture. The fact is, I was always getting shown their culture in the school, but they didn’t really understand mine because I was their only source.

When the week before Christmas came, most of the kids were bragging about the holiday because they were Catholic and Christain. The Friday before the break the school was decorated in all green and the teachers were dressed up like the Christmas colors. I thought this was cool and I was very happy when the teacher handed out goodie bags. My classmates talked about the presents they would be receiving and I felt left out because I didn’t have a story to tell. I wanted to tell them about my holiday, Eid, but I didn’t think it was right to brag about it while they were in the middle of their own holiday. As time went on I got used to it and I was able to coexist with them because I know we all have our own cultures that make us proud.

By the time I got to high school, I felt as if the city had become more embracing of Africans and people of Islam. During high school I noticed that the students really respected and had great relationships with us Africans. During the entire period of Ramadan, we would fast for 30 days. The school allowed us to pray in the gym because it’s important to pray the daily five prayers of Islam on time. My first time experiencing this I was very proud and happy because I remember for a long time my holiday wasn’t represented by my school and I finally knew the feeling of my holiday being represented. I’m proud I was able to introduce my culture to my friends and my school community because it showed me that people have many different types of culture that makes them proud like mine does. I can respect their beliefs and I’m glad that people can reciprocate with the same energy. I’ve always been proud of my culture, and if you have pride in what you believe, other people will be able to respect what motivates you.

Revision: I worked on RAB source entry number three and made sure to add some important context I was missing when it came to the interview, reflection and rhetorical analysis.

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Unit 2 RAB

**RAB ( Reflective Annotated Bibliography**​ )

**Introduction**

My research question is: How has the CV pandemic impacted and changed the National Basketball Association (NBA) and their players. I am interested in this topic because I am a big fan of the NBA and I can always enjoy a good basketball game. When the country decided to take covid seriously many jobs were required to shut down for a certain time and the NBA had to shut down as well. I already knew that this was the first time the NBA has dealt with a pandemic because it wasn't even founded yet for the last pandemic the U.S. faced (Spanish flu accoreed in 1918, NBA was founded in 1946). Some points I plan to explore and find out more about are how much money the NBA and players lost because they require fans to attend and watch. I also want to find out about the personal life of the NBA players and how their personal life's different now.

**Source Entry 1**

**Part 1 MLA Citation**

/ by Kelley Ekert. “Which NBA Players Are Vaccinated, Unvaccinated against COVID-19?” *RSN*, 3 Oct. 2021, https://www.nbcsports.com/washington/wizards/list-vaccinated-unvaccinated-nba-players-ahead-season.

**Part II Summary**

In the article “Which NBA players are vaccinated, unvaccinated against Covid-19?” Ekert talks about the effects of the Covid Virus in the NBA and how certain NBA players have dealt with the vaccine. Although there are no vaccine mandates in the NBA there is pressure on NBA players to either get vaccinated or lose privileges. For example fully vaccinated players don’t have to be regularly tested and can sit together at team meals, travels and the locker room. However for the un-vaccinated players testing is mandatory on all days involving practice, travels, and can even be tested multiple times on a game day. The cities of New York and San francisco have implemented vaccine mandates, which means that unvaccinated players from those cities are not permitted to play in any game held in those cities. A Brooklyn Nets superstar, Kyrie Irving is not vaccinated and because of that he can miss 41 home games without pay, which is half the season. Another player who plays on the Warriors,(located in San Francisco) Andrew Wiggins was not vaccinated as well. He even requested a religious exemption from the Covid vaccine. After the NBA denied his request he then got the vaccine so he wouldn’t lose his money and miss games. Many players throughout the NBA have their own thoughts on the Covid vaccine and handle it in their own ways.

**Part 3A Reflection**

I would advise this article to friends of mine and people who enjoy watching the NBA because I learned a great lot on how the Covid Pandemic brought new situations for the players.. Not only was I able to find out the protacles the league took to still keep their business going, but I also found out what individual players had to deal with. I like how the writer shows the experience of the basketball players who took the vaccine and the players who are against the vaccine. Every player doesn’t have the same thought process and I was interested to read why a player took the actions they took. Something I wish the author added is that based on vaccination status among players I'm curious as to if the vaccination has caused friction among NBA teammates. I know that many NBA players' main focus in the sport is winning a championship. How do these players feel when their teammates miss games due to their thoughts on the vaccine?

**Part 3B Rhetorical analysis**

This article is written by Kelley Ekert, a digital editor and throughout the article she gives us straight facts to how several NBA players were impacted by covid in their own ways. Due to the author giving us facts instead of biased opinions the readers are able to have their own reactions and thoughts on what they just read. Kelley Ekert shows the perspective of both the vaccinated and unvaccinated and the treatment they receive based on their decisions. The intended audience of the article are People who follow basketball and anyone who watches a sport that involves fans.

**Part 4 Notable Quotables**

“​​​​If that’s something we’re supposed to highly be protected from, that’s funny that it only reduces your chances of going to the hospital. It doesn’t eliminate anyone from getting COVID.” (Beal, Paragraph 15)

“It should be everyone’s decision. I see it both ways. If you want to get it because you feel more protected and you feel safer, and it’s protecting people around you, get it. That’s good for you. But if you feel like, ‘Oh, for me, I don’t feel safe getting it, then don’t get it.” (Porter, Paragraph 25)

“I know that I was very skeptical about it all, but after doing my research, I felt like it was best suited for not only me, but my family and for my friends. That's why I decided to do it,” ( James, paragraph 30)

**RAB Source entry #2**

**Part 1 MLA Citation**

Greif, Andrew. “How the NBA Adapted to Change during the COVID-19 Pandemic.” *Los Angeles Times*, Los Angeles Times, 11 Mar. 2021, https://www.latimes.com/sports/story/2021-03-11/nba-changes-covid-19-pandemic-year-later.

**Part 2 Summary**

In the article “How the NBA adapted to change during the COVID-19 pandemic” the author gives us various ways the NBA was impacted by Covid and adapted to the pandemic. When players are doing interviews now for the media they would have to talk through a zoom call rather than face to face. According to the Golden State Warriors Chief Executive and President, NBA team executives and other employees have been forced to collaborate and work remotely instead of meeting in an office environment, which has not been as effective. However, he concedes that this situation has not been entirely bad, that there have been some positive attributes. For example, the senior team has become a closer group due to the many hours spent working online. The cancelation of the NBA season caught league executives and players off-guard. Due to this national and local broadcasters and their crews lost jobs. Broadcasters were required to announce games remotely and were confined to their hotel rooms for days. Also the biggest portion of the NBA revenue comes from the fans. Now that fans aren't allowed until the health authorities deem it’s safe enough the NBA lost 40% of their revenue from the fans. The NBA has fallen $1.5 billion in 2020.

**Part 3A Reflection**

I would recommend this article to those who follow the NBA and anybody who wants to find out how jobs that require fans were affected due to the Covid Pandemic. The NBA is an entertainment business and most of their money comes from people who enjoy viewing and watching the NBA. I believe 1.5 billion dollars is way too much money to lose, this makes me wonder how much the NBA would make per season before the pandemic. I learned that the NBA staff and administration had to do a lot of strategizing on how they can keep prospering as a great entertainment business. I am able to realize that the viewers and fans outside the NBA staff and players are very important to the NBA's success. Whether It’s media people or ticket buyers, the NBA needs both of them to continue succeeding.

**Part 3B Rhetorical analysis**

This article is written by Andrew Greif, a writer for the Los Angeles Times who covers the NBA and the Clippers. Greif is always up to date with the NBA and gives accurate information. The intended audience for this is NBA fans and the purpose of the article is to show the readers how the administration and staff of the NBA adjusted to the Covid Pandemic and the effects of it. The Los Angeles Times is a respected source and is the largest metropolitan daily newspaper in the country.

**Part 4 Notable quotes**

“When teams hit the road, it’s become standard for television and radio play-by-play announcers and their analysts to call games remotely and for players to stay largely confined to their hotels” (Greif, paragraph 23)

“ work our way through that and how much direct access, face-to-face access, that media people have with our teams, whether that’s practice or postgame news conferences. There’s good and bad in that, I think.”(Welts, paragraph 26)

“The normal media access policy benefits everyone: the league, its teams, its players and, most of all, the fans whose passion fuels the league’s business model.”(Robbins, paragraph 27)

**RAB Source Entry #3**

**Part 1 MLA Citation**

Sow, Moussa (NBA fan for ten years+). In person Interview. Bronx, NYC. 18 NOV 2021

**Part 2 Summary**

My friend Moussa is 22 years old and has been a big fan of the NBA since the start of middle school, which was over ten years ago. Moussa is the perfect person to talk with about the impact and change the NBA has faced during the pandemic because he follows the NBA closely as a fan and makes weekly bets on Fanduel (sports betting)hoping for a win each time. He even attended a couple of games.

The first question I asked Moussa is how he felt when the NBA first shut down earlier in the pandemic. “Ahh man, I was so disappointed I had no idea when the NBA would come back, I thought fans wouldn’t be allowed until 2 years later, It would suck” he said. Moussa really valued attending games and cheering or booing for the teams playing and thought the NBA would lose the best part of themselves with the fans being gone. He couldn’t see a near future where fans would be allowed which let him down. Moussa mainly cared about the effect the NBA would have on him rather than the NBA players and staff.

I then asked Moussa who his favorite NBA player was and if he knew their vaccination status. He told me his favorite player is Bradly Beal and he believes he is vaccinated because he’s currently playing for his team. Moussa is wrong though, Bradley Beal is not vaccinated , he’s allowed to play in his city and all the games because his home arena in Washington doesn’t require players to be vaccinated.

The last question I asked Moussa is what he missed the most during the time the NBA was shut down. “ I mainly missed being able to bet on fanduel because I made a lot of money from it, but also when NBA came back I was upset that fans weren't allowed for like a year”

The NBA plays a big part in Moussa’s life, whether it’s for entertainment or to make money he uses them at both. Moussa wishes that every player can play whether they are vaccinated or not because that would create the best experience for the fans and the players.

**Part 3A Reflection**

For the most part I understand and agree with what Moussa is saying. I also agree that the NBA shutdown was a let down. He’s also right that the fans are the most important part of the NBA weather even though he was just talking about the energy they bring to the game. The fans are also very important because they account for 40% of the NBA revenue. I believe that Moussa is too self centred on this subject and that he should care to find out the problems the people who actually work in the NBA have dealt with because that’s what they do for a living. I thought it was important to understand the feelings and actions of the workers on the business side of the NBA to fully understand how the NBA brands itself, but Moussa didn’t think that deeply.

**Part 3B Rhetorical analysis**

The person being interviewed was able to point out an important aspect of the NBA when mentioning the fans. Moussa is a long time fan of the NBA and understands the value of the entertainment and the social life the NBA has to offer. The intended audience for this interview are fans of the NBA and sports who want to find out the effect the NBA had on fans during the pandemic.

**Part 4 Quotable quotes**

**“**I was upset that fans weren't allowed for like a year”

“I mainly missed being able to bet on fanduel because I made a lot of money from it”

**Conclusion Paragraph**

In my research I learned so much on how the NBA as a business and their players were affected due to the pandemic. When I first came up with this topic I wanted to really find out how the players were managing their own choices and how the business of the NBA would change during the pandemic. Due to my research I was able to find out some of the thought process from specific players of the NBA. Not just one or two players but several NBA players who had different experiences through the pandemic. There were some players who struggled more than other players and some who had it easier based on what I read. Before doing my research I knew that it would only make sense for the NBA to take losses as a business due to the pandemic, now due to my research I know the specific losses. The NBA lost over a billion dollars in a season which is just crazy. They had to put in a lot of effort to adjust to the pandemic and made the decision to treat the two different types of players, vaccinated and unvaccinated, how they saw fit. I am able to conclude the NBA is a strong business and they had to pull out a lot of moves to make sure they continue being prosperos even when faced with a pandemic. They are still in the pandemic and I will keep my attention on this because I want to see all the ways the NBA and their players adapt to the pandemic.

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Unit 3 Final Letter

**OUTLINE:**

**Introduction Part**

1. **Salutation to NBA Fan Club**
2. **Identify myself: NBA Fan, long time for 8 years, my 3 bros, my dad and I are NBA huge fans, watching the NBA is a huge part of my family life.**
3. **Message / purpose: Tell fans to do everything they can to help the NBA get back normal: Vaxed, attend games for real,**
4. **Message is important because help the NBA survive, get as close to normal as possible as fast as possible.**

**Body part:**

1. **Last season NBA moved to bubble Disney and other changes bc of pandemic (refer to research – link). Loss of money.**
2. **Some problems – some important players not all vaxxed – interfered with the success of team spirit. Refer to our research.**
3. **Loss of jobs in the stadiums**
4. **The changes the NBA instituted for safety and to allow fans back**
5. **Report on positives of fans coming back to the game.**

**CONCLUSION**

1. **Message be patient, have faith**
2. **What the fans can do to make things as normal as possible.**
3. **Encourage the fans to do everything in their power to help the cause**
4. **End on a hopeful note!**

Amadou Diallo

ENG 1101CO LC44

Final Letter

Dear NBA Fan Club members,

I have been a devoted NBA fan for eight years. In fact, I belong to a family of NBA fans. My three brothers, my father, and I have heated arguments and debates about our favorite players, teams and projections for the season. Watching the games is a huge part of my family life. Being an NBA fan myself I can say that I was very disappointed and saddened when the NBA season was suspended due to the Covid-19 virus outbreak. Not only is the NBA a source of entertainment for fans, but it’s also a sport that requires the fans' energy and spirit live in the stadium and behind the TV screens for the NBA to peak.

When the NBA season was suspended due to the pandemic, I had no idea when it would be back because this was the first time something like this had happened. I was gravely disappointed for a while because the NBA gave me a source of entertainment for three hours a day several days in a week and was the reason for a lot of competitive arguments between my friends and me. I have friends who always looked forward to going to NBA games because of the excitement of watching elite players and cheering or booing alongside other fans in the arena. I have friends who bet on NBA games regularly through Fanduel as well who were upset after the suspension. I am writing to tell you to be patient about the NBA getting back to normal. It will gradually recapture the spirit that separates the NBA from all other professional sports leagues!

It is not only the fans who have suffered as a result of the Pandemic. NBA teams have been victimized as well. For example, although there are no vaccine mandates in the NBA, there is pressure on NBA players to either get vaccinated or lose privileges. While fully vaccinated players don’t have to be regularly tested and can sit together at team meals, during travels, and in the locker room, unvaccinated players face mandatory testing on all practice days and game days, and are often excluded from the gatherings of vaccinated players. Clearly, this type of discrimination negatively impacts team chemistry.

Another consequence of Covid is a diminished potential for team success, specifically with regard to the Brooklyn Nets, New York Knicks, and Golden State Warriors. In these cities (New York and San Francisco), being vaccinated is required to play in NBA games. In the case of the Nets in particular, the team has lost Kyrie Irving due to his unwillingness to get vaccinated. While the Nets were the frontrunners for the championship with Irving, they now have to reconfigure and find a way to be a successful team without this key player. This is also a loss for the audience. Irving is a major talent, and NBA fans will not be able to see him play.

On March 11, 2020, due to the pandemic, the NBA was suspended for several months. After that, the league eventually came back with games played in the bubble in Disney World, where fans were not allowed. This was the first time we would watch the NBA without any fans in attendance and the energy they brought with them. This wasn’t the NBA we fell in love with, but a new NBA we could not and will not accept. The truth is [the fans of the NBA are the most important people](https://inewsnetwork.net/8170/sports/the-importance-of-fans-in-the-nba/) when talking about what makes the NBA so electric. Not many people realize this, but because of the absence of fans many people lost their jobs. According to concession stand worker Leila Williams, “Thousands of people across the U.S. are jobless including myself” (Sanchez). Stadium workers have been put out of work by the thousands as an unintended consequence of this shutdown. The NBA provides countless jobs, and just like the people on the business end of the league and the players, these people have been affected too.

 Packed arenas are now on the rebound as the NBA strives for normalcy.

Since the start of the pandemic in 2020 until now, [the NBA has progressed greatly](https://apnews.com/article/nba-basketball-adam-silver-coronavirus-pandemic-e8e99c59e32a79925b81b353bdb96e7b). The NBA is allowing fans back in the arenas and everybody involved in the sport is a lot more happy. This is due to the covid vaccines and the responsible actions the NBA and the people of the U.S. have taken. Before the start of this season Commissioner of the NBA, Adam Silver said, “If vaccines continue on the pace they are and they continue to be as effective as they have been against the virus and its variants, we’re hopeful that we’ll have relatively full arenas next season as well” (Reynolds). He has said since the start of the recent season that all the NBA games have involved many fans and almost full arenas. The energy that was once lost is back again and putting smiles on our faces. But the NBA isn’t back to normal just yet because the Covid virus is still a scary reality. With that being said, the NBA keeps taking bigger steps as time goes on, and I have no doubt that the NBA and my fellow fans will enable the league to return to relative normalcy in the near future. However, in order to ensure this, we must all take action!

I call upon all NBA fan club members to attend basketball games whenever possible. Increased fan attendance will re-energize NBA teams and their players, increasing much of the enthusiasm that has waned. Additionally, it will increase revenues, which are important for the game to thrive and for NBA workers to be employed. Further, I encourage all fans to get vaccinated in the hopes that the NBA can avoid any future shutdowns. It is also important for all of you to write to unvaxxed players and persuade them to get vaccinated because vaccinations are safe and effective. We do not want elite players to be sidelined due to Covid outbreaks or laws that prohibit unvaccinated players from taking the court. If we all play a role in the fight against Covid and unite in a collaborative effort to restore the game of basketball to its former greatness, we will once again enjoy the thrills of watching the incomparable drama and competitiveness that embody this sport.

Sincerely,

Amadou of the NBA Fan Club

Sanchez, Brandon. “The Importance of Fans in the NBA.” *The INews Network*, https://inewsnetwork.net/8170/sports/the-importance-of-fans-in-the-nba/.

Reynolds, Tim. “NBA may return to normal in ‘21-‘22, virus permitting.” *Associated Press,* “https://apnews.com/article/nba-basketball-adam-silver-coronavirus-pandemic-e8e99c59e32a79925b81b353bdb96e7b