

Lesson Plan

Talking About Title IX

Book: *Women in Soccer*

Series: She's Got Game

Level: Navigator

Objective

To help students explore how and why Title IX was created by watching a video interview with Dr. Bernice Sandler, one of its key supporters.

Supplies

- *Women in Soccer* book
- Video interview with Dr. Bernice Sandler from the VFA Pioneer Histories Project:
<https://www.veteranfeministsofamerica.org/vfa-pioneer-histories-project-dr-bernice-sandler/>
- Computer access for each student

Before the Activity

Read *Women in Soccer* out loud to students, or assign it to students to read on their own.

Activity

Page 18 of *Women in Soccer* has a sidebar about Bernice Sandler. Sandler is often called the Godmother of Title IX because of her work to reduce gender discrimination. To learn more about her life and her work for women's rights, play the video on the VFA Pioneer Histories Project website. In this interview, Bernice Sandler discusses her inspiration and process for making change. After watching the video, discuss the following questions as a class:

- What event motivated Bernice Sandler to start her work for women's rights? (Answer: She realized she was not hired for a job because she was a woman. This unfair treatment made her angry.)
- What did Sandler study to prepare to make change? (Answer: She began to do research. She studied the law and what African Americans had done to work for civil rights.)
- What action did Sandler take as a result? (Answer: She found a way to take legal action against sex discrimination. She filed charges against colleges and universities.)
- How did other people get involved? (Answer: Other people filed charges. A lawmaker heard about their actions and introduced Title IX.)
- What did Sandler do to support Title IX? (Answer: She helped testify in support of Title IX and encouraged lawmakers to pass it.)

In the video, Sandler says she thinks Title IX is the most important law for women and girls passed since women gained the right to vote. She thinks it will have an impact in countries all around the world. Ask students to consider the following prompt:

- Title IX helps male and female athletes have equal opportunities. In what ways can the opportunities a person does or doesn't have influence that person's ability to succeed?

Give students a few moments to consider their answers silently. Then have students turn to share their thoughts with a neighbor. After students have a few minutes to discuss, call the class back together. Invite one or two volunteers to share their ideas with the rest of the class.

Evaluation

Could students answer the questions about the video? Could they discuss the prompt with a partner?

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' speaking and listening standards, grade 6 (SL 6.1).