

Programming Kit*



American
Spaces

Olympics/Paralympics



English Conversation Club about Olympics – 45-60 minutes

- **VOA VIDEO:** *Teen from Ghana Becomes First Black Woman on US Olympic Speedskating Team* [2 minutes 50 seconds; published by Voice of America News; Dec 29, 2017]
<https://app.box.com/s/lnqdv3vhbyn2dq26rfyi8p4w29kluwp>
- **SHARE AMERICA ARTICLE** – *U.S. women a major force at the Olympics*
<https://share.america.gov/u-s-women-major-force-at-olympics/>

Here is some background information about the Olympics (English level – Medium). You can print out these articles and share with English Conversation Club participants.

- **ARTICLE** – *Modern Olympic Games*
<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/modern-olympic-games/>
- **ARTICLE** – *The Olympic Principles and Traditions*
<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/olympic-principles-and-traditions/>
- **SLIDE SHOW** – *The Olympics in Photos* (not downloadable; requires internet access. Be sure to test that this works in your American Space)
http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/athens_games/photos1.htm

English Conversation Club Questions:

1. (VOA video) Why is Maame Biney's story about joining the U.S. Olympic Speedskating Team significant?
2. (VOA video) When Maame's father signed her up for skating lessons, was he thinking of the Olympics at that time? Why did he sign Maame up for lessons?
3. (ShareAmerica article) What led to a significant increase of women in sports in the United States? Are women and girls encouraged to participate in sports in your communities?
4. Do you watch the Olympic Games? Which sports are your favorites?
5. (Article on Modern Olympic Games) What was Frenchman Pierre de Coubertin's hope when he revived the Olympic Games in the late 19th century?
6. (Article on Modern Olympic Games) How are the modern Olympic Games similar or different than the ancient Greek Olympic Games?

* Activities provided in American Spaces Programming Kits are offered as suggestions and resources.

English Conversation Activity about Olympics (continued)

7. What is the Olympic Creed? "Creed" means a guiding principle.
The Olympic Creed is: "***The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well.***"
What are your thoughts about this guiding principle?
8. Many people say politics should have no place in the Olympic Games. What are your thoughts?

English Conversation Activity – 45-60 minutes

Why the Olympic Games Should Be Held In Your City

- **ARTICLE** – *How the Olympic Locations are Chosen*
http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/athens_games/backyard.htm
- **ARTICLE** – *Los Angeles, host of 2028 Olympics, has big plans*
<https://share.america.gov/los-angeles-host-of-2028-olympics-has-big-plans/>
- **ACTIVITY GUIDE:** Give a persuasive speech for why the Olympics should be held in your city or a city of your choice.
http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/athens_games/speech.htm

English Conversation Club about Paralympics – 45-60 minutes

- **VIDEO:** *'All about ability' - How the Paralympic Movement is maintaining momentum* [4 minutes 59 seconds; published by International Paralympic Committee; Dec 2013]
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6RMOSDynkw8>
- **ARTICLE** – *Sports access builds Paralympic dreams: A world without limits (includes 3+ minute video)*
<https://share.america.gov/building-paralympic-dreams-world-without-limits/>
- **ARTICLE** – *These athletes prove disabilities are no bar to sports*
<https://share.america.gov/athletes-prove-disabilities-are-no-bar-to-sports/>

English Conversation Club Questions

1. What are the Paralympics? When and why were the Paralympics created?
2. The Paralympics are the largest sporting event for disabled athletes. What athletes from your country have participated in the Paralympics?
3. What are some of the disabilities that are mentioned in the articles or shown in the videos? What are the sports that these disabled athletes are able to pursue? Did any of the sports surprise you?
4. How do the Paralympic Games embody the Olympic spirit and creed?
5. Given technological advances, the performance gap between disabled and non-disabled athletes has shrunk considerably. Some people say that the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games ought to merge (instead of having separate games). What are your thoughts?
6. How are the disabled people in your communities treated? Do they have equal access to different opportunities and services?

Combination of Olympic/Paralympic Event Watch Party and English Conversation Club

Consider holding a program featuring both a Watch Party of an Olympic event with discussion afterwards. The 2018 Olympics and Paralympics schedule of events may be found here:

- <https://www.pyeongchang2018.com/en/schedule>
- <https://www.pyeongchang2018.com/en/paralympics/index>

For any American Spaces who have the technical capability, including strong WiFi networks and Virtual Reality (VR) goggles, here is some information for how to watch several events of the Olympic Games in Virtual Reality using the NBC Sports VR app, powered by Intel True VR technology.

- <https://iq.intel.com/gear-up-how-to-watch-the-winter-olympics-in-virtual-reality/>
- <https://www.intel.com/content/www/us/en/sports/olympic-games/vr-live-streaming-schedule.html>