*By Associated Press, adapted by Newsela staff*

*Nov. 1, 2013  midnight*

**Directions**:  Read the article below carefully.  As you read, **annotate** with the following:

* Choose 3 Letters of SPARTANS Annotate that you wish to use.  Circle your choices below:

**S    P    A    R    T    A    N    S**

**When you finish reading**, attach a separate sheet of paper that includes the following:

* The ***definition, a synonym, and an antonym*** of each of the words that are underlined in bold
* At least one ***analogy*** in which you draw a comparison between this text and another text we’ve read in class
* A 4-5 sentence explanation that connects this article to our unit theme of “Picking Your Battles”

**NEW YORK —** The Oneida Indian Nation finds the Washington Redskins team nickname offensive and wants to meet with all 32 NFL owners to talk about it.

The request for the meeting comes after what Oneida representatives said was a disappointing conversation with league officials on Wednesday.

The Oneida nation hopes to persuade the other team owners and Commissioner Roger Goodell to put pressure on Redskins owner Daniel Snyder to drop the nickname. It wants to hold the meeting during Super Bowl week.

Ray Halbritter, an Oneida representative and leader of the Change the Mascot Campaign, said of Wednesday's meeting, "it became somewhat evident they were defending the continued use of the name. Of course, we're disappointed."

## Meeting With NFL Officials

The Oneidas asked Goodell and Snyder to "visit our homelands," and sought an amendment to league bylaws to prohibit franchises from naming a team with any term that is a ***racial epithet***, or offensive name. Halbritter says the dictionary defines the word "redskins" precisely that way.

Halbritter's group also asked Goodell to "use his power to bring Snyder before the league executive committee for possible ***sanctions***" should the team continue to use the nickname.

The NFL released a statement about the meeting, which Goodell did not attend. The NFL was represented by senior vice president Adolpho Birch, and executive vice presidents Jeff Pash and Paul Hicks. Pash is the league's general counsel.

"We met at the request of Ray Halbritter of the Oneida Nation," the statement said. "We listened and respectfully discussed the views of Mr. Halbritter, Oneida Nation Wolf Clan Representative Keller George and their colleagues as well as the sharply differing views of many other Native Americans and fans in general. The meeting was part of an ongoing dialogue to facilitate listening and learning, consistent with the commissioner's comments earlier this year."

Many of the Oneidas' requests were contained in a letter handed to the NFL representatives at the meeting.

## Tribute Or Demeaning?

Since President Barack Obama recently said he would "think about changing" the name if he owned the team, many fans have taken up the cause. And many more have rallied around a name they see as a tradition or a tribute.

Halbritter sees it as offensive and ***demeaning***.

In a letter to Goodell, he said the Change the Mascot Campaign sought to "finally halt the (destructive) effects of the R-word on our people and Native peoples everywhere."

He also said, "as financial sponsors of the league, we are concerned that the league's marketing of a racially ***derogatory*** term undermines the NFL's ability to be a unifying force in America."

NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said the Oneida Indian Nation is not a league sponsor. The Oneida Nation sponsors a team, the Buffalo Bills. The Wisconsin tribe of the Oneida Nation has a sponsorship deal with the Green Bay Packers.

## Some Newspapers Drop Term

The Oneida Indian Nation has approximately 1,000 enrolled members. It is one of 566 federally recognized sovereign Native American nations, according to the U.S. Department of the Interior/Indian Affairs.

Also on Wednesday, the San Francisco Chronicle said it will no longer use the word "Redskins" when referring to the team.

Managing Editor Audrey Cooper said the newspaper's style committee decided to eliminate the term because of a long-standing policy against using racial slurs.

"Not everyone has to be personally offended by a word to make it a slur," Cooper said in a statement titled "A name unfit for print. Make no mistake, 'redskin' is a ***patently*** racist term."

The Chronicle joins several other publications that have made the same decision over the years. Those include the Kansas City Star, Slate.com, and the Portland Oregonian which dropped the term more than two decades ago.