

Instructions: This paper is worth 20 percent of your grade. Papers should be word processed and *double spaced*. They are due by **11:59 p.m., Monday, Feb. 25 via Blackboard**. Please do not email me the papers – submit them via through Blackboard.

This paper should cover the readings and discussions pertaining to the readings of Fulcher, Ehrenreich, Kendall, Jhally, Bellamy, Gantz & Lewis, and the documentary “Inequality for All.”

Topic: Ehrenreich and Reich are concerned with questions of *power*. Jhally and Bellamy are concerned with questions of power in the relationships between sports, media and consumers/audiences. Fulcher’s analysis of capitalism, as well as Bellamy’s and Gantz’s & Lewis’ analyses of sports media helped to define and analyze those relationships.

About a week ago, a sports writer friend of mine wrote about the fact that Major League Baseball superstars Bryce Harper and Manny Machado, both free agents, had yet be signed by teams. He wrote this, among other things:

“I’ve always watched pro athlete salaries escalate with great fascination. How multiple millions became commonplace. How the media never questioned it. Now, I don’t spite anyone for asking for all they can get, for reaching for the moon, for taking advantage of the going market rate and understanding there is a limited earnings period. But, I always knew there would be a correction, or corrections. The stock market does that. Housing prices do that. However, the players seem to think unlimited riches are a given and should never dissipate. Twenty years ago, I was in the clubhouse when a Mariners backup catcher started complaining about his situation to the bullpen coach, who wheeled on him, and said rather pointedly, ‘You \$350,000 a year, you play once a week, what more do you want?’

Question: Why does a sports writer side with team owners instead of with players?

When crafting your answer, consider the following questions to help you put together your answer: What would a free-market capitalist think of this situation? What would Marx think of this situation? Are the players part of the bourgeoisie, or the proletariat? Why? What is the commodity (the product for sale) of professional sports?

I will be reading and evaluating for the soundness and completeness of your argument, the reflection of your knowledge of capitalism and the sports media complex, as well as your writing prowess (clarity, sentence structure, punctuation, and grammar). Hint: PROOFREAD. I prefer you use APA style, but I’m not a stickler so long as you CITE SOURCES and include a list of references in a consistent manner. READ [THE GRADING RUBRIC](#) before you start writing -- I tell you how to get an A. I can promise you will not do well on this assignment if you revert to unoriginal, *SportsCenter/sports talk radio-type banter*.

