Contestant: **B-2**

“... not meaningful students…” said Jack ford in regards to students receiving athletic scholarships. The word student by definition is “a person formally engaged in learning.” By disregarding the title a person associates with by attending a school, as a county, whose principals were founded on the pursuit of happiness, we fail to give student-athletes the support most of us would expect to receive in our academics.

For those who are not academically inclined or have support from loved ones, public school may be their only opportunity to have a formal place of learning. If a student finds that they don’t meet education standards and their strong ability is a different type of brain-stimulating activity, such as sports, why does that subsequently mean they will not have the same opportunity for college? Even if they are underperforming in their grades, a college experience that allows passion to meet adulthood should not be denied from them. College is full of roles that include students fulfilling and exceeding academic achievement, but their presence is complimented by other types of achieving people.

There is argument that NCAA protects students involved in sports. Each college campus is also responsible for specific incidents. Sports can be seen as distractions from the learning process. The OJ Simpson trial was viewed 120 million people most likely due to his known presence in football. Many people, regardless of their standpoint on student-athlete scholarships, saw the verdict of innocent as a result of protection from his reputation as a football player.

While sports associations should put more effort into advertising the image of athletes being more positive, there are corruptions in any association even if it is only one person. As supporters of education, we have a responsibility to uphold, that should appreciate all students to allow them to add to positivity to as many groups in college, and even the world. By labeling students on athletic scholarships, “not mingled” automatically deems those who are not. At somewhat more insightful or successful as students. 86% of Division 1 student athletes graduate. Those athletes have a college degree they might not have had before. The United States is the land of opportunity, students of all kind must have their own opportunity, even if it may seem unconventional

“Opinion is power,” said by Thomas jefferson. The power to encourage education is easily dismissible, but the power to let students find and prove their meaning is a heavy weight that we all have to carry.