



What's going on this week?

The world number two female tennis player Naomi Osaka has withdrawn from the French Open tennis tournament after the controversy over her refusal to speak to the media at the tournament. She announced her decision in a recent Twitter post. The 23-year-old Japanese player said last week she would not do news conferences at the event to protect her mental health.

Main question:

Should sports stars be expected to give interviews?

Listen, think, share

- Look at this week's poster. Does anyone know who the player is? Explain that it is the number two female tennis player in the world, Naomi Osaka, who is Japanese.
- Naomi has been in the news recently because she chose not to take part in an interview after a tennis match at the French Open (a big tennis event), even though the tennis players are expected to do this. She said she has often found interviews hard and sometimes feels uncomfortable doing them.
- Have you ever felt uncomfortable speaking in front of others or do you enjoy having the opportunity? Talk about how some people feel happy and confident when presenting or speaking in front of others, whilst others find it much more difficult.
- Read through the information found on the assembly resource, which includes some of Naomi Osaka's statement and statements from other players. Were you surprised she decided to leave the tournament and take a break from tennis?
- Do you think that sports stars should be allowed to say no to giving interviews if they don't want to do them?
- Watch this week's useful video (link found overleaf), which shows fellow tennis player Serena Williams empathising with Naomi Osaka about her decision to take a break from tennis. Do you agree with what Serena Williams says? Explain your thoughts.

Reflection

There may be times when there is an expectation for us to speak in front of others. Some of us may find this easy and feel confident, whilst others may find this more difficult. It is important for us to support each other and our differences.



KS1 Focus

Question:

What is public speaking?

Listen, think, share

- Write 'public speaking' on the board. Do you know what public speaking is? Share and discuss responses.
- Explain that public speaking is a talk that is given to an audience. Can you think of a time when you might have heard someone speaking publicly? Why do you think people need to speak in front of an audience?
- Look at resource 1, which shares examples of public speakers. Do you think you would like to speak in front of an audience?
- Focus on the picture with the red person standing in front of the blue people. If you could choose one person to be on the picture, who would it be and why?
- Imagine you were the red person. How do you think you would feel? If you could choose what you were talking about, what would it be?
- Look at the examples of public speakers on the resource. For each one, think about the reasons they might be talking to an audience e.g. the lecturer is teaching/educating, the race director is celebrating the runners/thanking helpers.
- Think about other reasons why someone might need to speak in public.

Reflection

Public speaking is a talk that is given to an audience. There are many different reasons why people need to speak in public.



KS2 Focus

Question:

What roles and times require the use of public speaking?

Listen, think, share

- Think about times when you have come across people speaking publicly. Who were they? Where were they? Why were they speaking to an audience?
- Explain there are many roles, jobs and times where someone is required to speak in public. Look at resource 2, which shares examples of some of these. Can you think of any other examples?
- Focus on Paul's comment. Discuss that there may be times when we are required to speak to an audience, even though it is something we would prefer not to do. Do you agree with Paul that the more times you do it, the easier it becomes?
- What skills or qualities do you think are needed to be an effective public speaker? Create a list e.g. confident, passionate, organised, active listener, creative, good subject knowledge, articulate. Do you think we can improve on these skills or qualities? How?
- Do you enjoy speaking to an audience? Think about how you feel at the beginning, during and at the end of a presentation to your class.
- Do you think the content or subject of the presentation would affect how confident you felt? If you could talk to your class about anything, what would you choose?

Reflection

Some jobs or roles may require more public speaking than others. Some people may need to plan and practise in order to become more confident.

KS2 Follow-up Ideas

Option 1: Ask the children to plan a two-minute talk or presentation on a topic of their choice e.g. a hobby, their family, a country. Think about:

- What will your presentation be about?
- Will you include any resources?
- How can you engage and interest your audience?
- Will you write out a speech and practise first?

Allow the children time to present their talk. If possible to the whole class, if not, in small groups. You might even learn something about each other!

Option 2: Organise a class tennis tournament! Ask the children to think about the following:

- What role will you play? E.g. a presenter, an official, a spectator, a competitor, a camera person, a sports journalist?
- How will the scores be recorded?
- What equipment will you need?
- What size will the courts be?
- Will you interview the players after their match?

Assign roles and prepare for the tournament. There is plenty of opportunity for more follow-up tasks such as match reports and handling data!

KS1 Follow-up Ideas

Option 1: Write the tennis scoring system on the board for the children to see:

- No points – Love
- First point – 15
- Second point – 30
- Third point – 40
- Fourth point – Game

- Can you say these numbers?
- How many tens and how many ones?

Explain that you are going to use the numbers of 15, 30 and 40 to play a game. Place three different coloured hoops, different distances away from you on the classroom floor. The closest hoop is worth 15 points, the next one 30 points, and the final one is 40 points. Throw a bean bag twice.

- What is my score?
- If I throw my bean bag again and score 15, what will my new score be?

Ask the children to play the game in small groups. If you need to, change the hoops' points!

Option 2: Ask the children to think about any famous sports people they might have heard of. Record a list on the board.

- What sport do they play?
- Have you ever seen them play?
- When and where did you see them? E.g. in a stadium, on television.

Discuss the types of sport the children enjoy taking part in and why they like them. Ask the children to create a picture showing the sport of one of the famous sports people shared above or a sport they enjoy playing.

This Week's Useful Websites

This week's news story

www.bbc.co.uk/sport/tennis/57311128

This Week's Useful Videos

Serena Williams discussing Naomi Osaka's decision

www.bbc.co.uk/sport/tennis/57310701

This Week's Virtual Assembly

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This Week's Useful Vocabulary

Controversy – disagreement about something, particularly when carried out in public.

Naomi Osaka has withdrawn from the French Open tennis tournament after the **controversy** over her refusal to speak to the media.

Empathising – understanding and sharing the feelings of someone else.

...Serena Williams **empathising** with Naomi Osaka and her decision.

Expectation – a belief that someone will do or achieve something or behave in a certain way.

There may be times where there is an **expectation** for us to speak in front of others.

Interview – a formal meeting at which someone is asked questions.

Naomi has been in the news recently because she chose not to take part in an **interview**.

Statement – a definite or clear expression of something in speech or writing.

...Naomi Osaka's **statement** and statements from other players.

Withdrawn – left a place or situation.

Naomi Osaka has **withdrawn** from the French Open tennis tournament.