

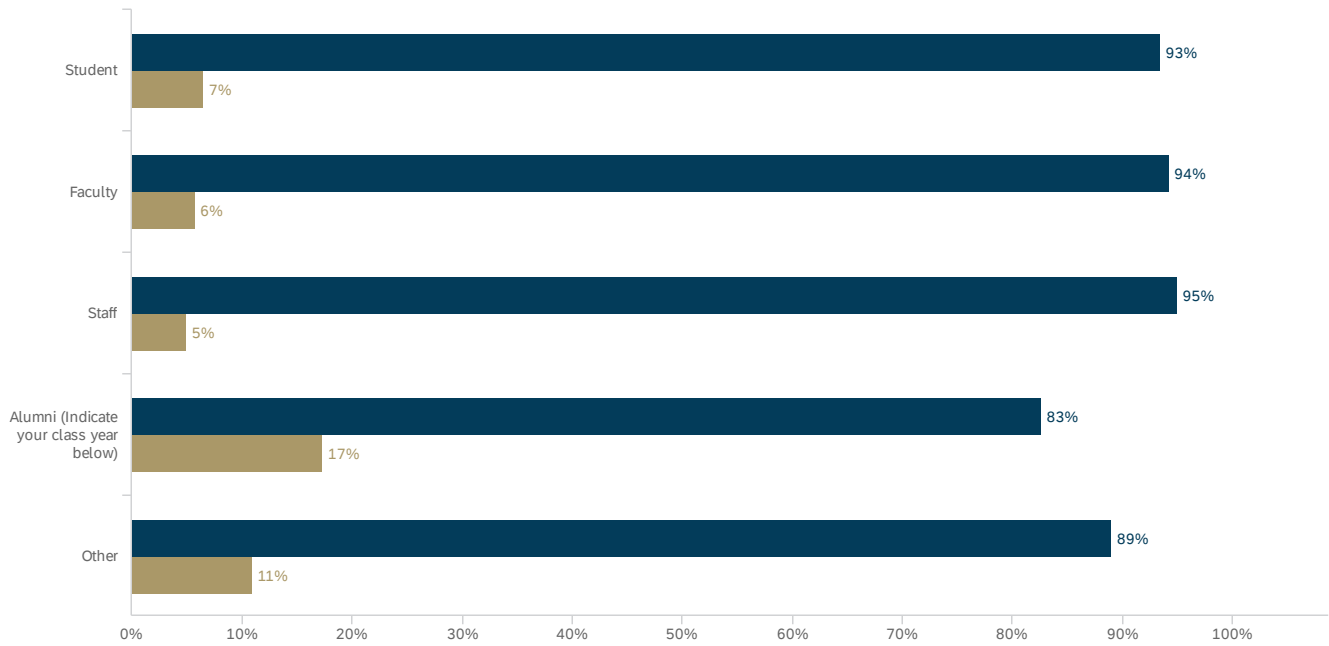
# Default Report by Affiliation

*Colonials Moniker Survey: 2020*

March 29, 2021 12:31 PM EDT

Colonials Moniker Survey: 2020 by Affiliation - Web Results

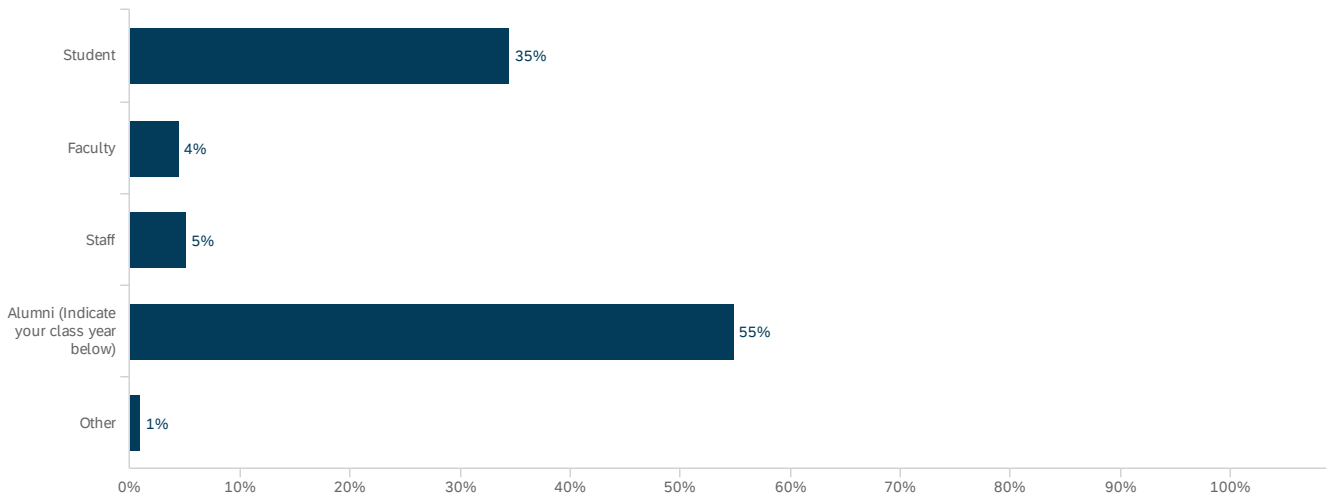
## Q2 - Are you aware of this matter?\*



| Field | Student |      | Faculty |     | Staff |     | Alumni (Indicate your class year below) |      | Other |    |
|-------|---------|------|---------|-----|-------|-----|---|------|-------|----|
| Yes   | 93%     | 2390 | 94%     | 311 | 95%   | 362 | 83%                                     | 3360 | 89%   | 65 |
| No    | 7%      | 167  | 6%      | 19  | 5%    | 19  | 17%                                     | 705  | 11%   | 8  |
|       |         | 2557 |         | 330 |       | 381 |   | 4065 |       | 73 |

Showing rows 1 - 3 of 3

### Q3 - What is your primary affiliation at GW?\*



| Field                                   | Choice Count |
|---|--------------|
| Student                                 | 35% 2557     |
| Faculty                                 | 4% 330       |
| Staff                                   | 5% 381       |
| Alumni (Indicate your class year below) | 55% 4065     |
| Other                                   | 1% 73        |
|   | 7406         |

Showing rows 1 - 6 of 6

#### Q3\_4\_TEXT - Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

##### Student

Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

##### Faculty

Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

##### Staff

Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

##### Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

Law 2004

Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

2012

2015

2003

2016

Law '20

1995

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1972

Law '91

Medicine 1982

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Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

2005 & 2007

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77 MBA

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Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

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1968, 1978

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JD 1992

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Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

2013 (B.A.) & 2017 (J.D.)

1968

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Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

MBA 1976

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Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

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National Law Center, JD 1984

2002

CCAS'67

1995

GW Law '06

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2012

2016

Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

Elliot 91

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1993

2019

MPH class of 2020

1989

2008

2019

2020

2015 and 2017

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2004

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Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

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Columbian College '68; GW Med School '74l

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Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

MPA 2009

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Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

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1981

1989

2017 and 2018

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1973

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2002, 2015

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1991

GSPM 2013

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1986

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2019

2007 Grad student

2020

2019

1987, 1989

1996

Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

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2008

1974

2020

2009

2013

1996 Masters in Public Admin

2017

SPHHS '00; SPHHS '02

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1962

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Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

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Law 2002

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2000 & 2002

Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

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1994

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2014

2011 and 2013

2005

2006

2006; 2008

2011

2003

2014

2010 (grad)

2009 and 2013

2018

2006

2019

1987

2012 (law school)

2017



Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

2017

1993

2019

2012 undergrad, 2013 grad

MPA 1997

SOM '12

MPP 2006

2004 law

1967

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1985

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2019

2011 (undergrad) and 2013 (grad)

Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

2014

1079

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MBA 2007

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JD; 1978

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MS 1996 and D.Sc. 2004

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Law alum class of 2019

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1977 and 2009

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Columbian College 1978

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Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

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MBA 2015

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Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

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M.A. 2019

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2020

Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

Men's Basketball Coach

2015

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1983, 1985

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1969

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Law 1978

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1984

Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

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66, 73, 83, 93

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Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

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JD 1975

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GW Law 1992

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Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

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Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

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2016, 2017

2005 (BA) & 2007 (MA)

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1971 MSBA

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Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

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1961-BA; 1966-Law

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2020

JD, MPH 2004

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1969

Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

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1975 and 1981

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1981

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PhD 2006

2011

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2017 - Law

1968

Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

2011

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Law School 2003

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1966

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1969 BBA 1970 MAEd

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Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

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Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration 2008

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Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

'01 and '03

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MD 2003

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1997 and 2010

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Corcoran School of Art 1990

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MA 2003

1974

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2020

Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

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MD 1974

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2011

2020 and 2013, also former FT staff

1965

1967 and 1971

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1997, MBA

2106

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Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

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Law 99

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73 and 76

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BA 2002, JD 2007

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Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

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Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

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1999 and 2001

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Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

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1961

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MBA 1996

1971

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Masters HSMP 1996

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2020



Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

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PA class of 2015

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Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

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BA 2016 / MPA 2017

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Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

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JD 1981, LL.M. 1990

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BA 1996; MS 2020

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Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

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1972

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1968

BA 77 JD 80

1966

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2012

PhD 1998

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JD 2014

Law 1976

BSHS 2005, MSHS 2007

Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

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1972 NWC MSC Foreign Affairs

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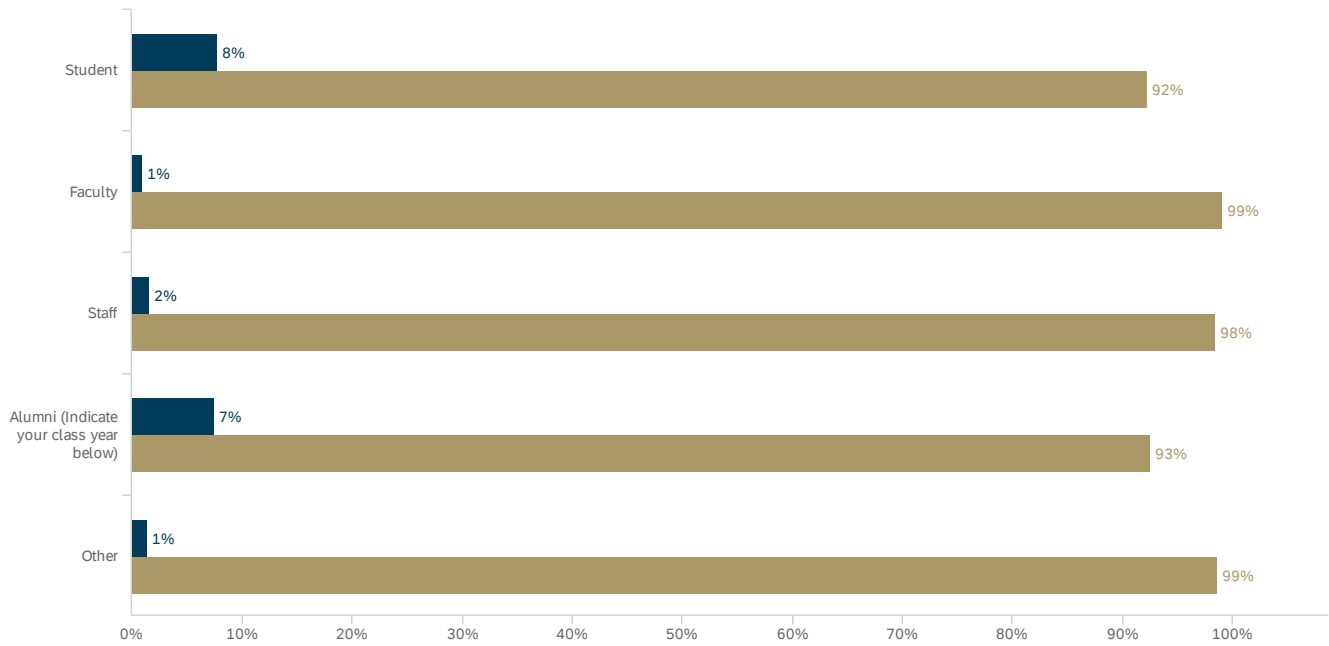
1982

1978

Other

Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

## Q4 - Are or were you a GW Student-Athlete?



| Field | Student  | Faculty | Staff   | Alumni (Indicate your class year below) | Other  |
|-------|----------|---------|---------|---|--------|
| Yes   | 8% 198   | 1% 3    | 2% 6    | 7% 301                                  | 1% 1   |
| No    | 92% 2354 | 99% 320 | 98% 374 | 93% 3736                                | 99% 72 |
|       | 2552     | 323     | 380     | 4037                                    | 73     |

Showing rows 1 - 3 of 3



What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Dominators / colonists from Europe

Colonizers. People who are celebrated in their homeland for killing natives and claiming land for their home country.

Yes

A group who colonists who colonize other countries/people, which can ultimately drain that particular culture of their resources or deplete cultures.

It refers to the outsiders who once invaded this very land of America

This is our mascot and a representation of the GWU community.

I think 18th century immigrants that came to America, killed American Indians and claimed the land as their own

To me, colonial reminds me strongly of the colonials of the colonies of the Americas, but these lands first belonged to indigenous populations and the colonials were living on stolen land and supported the exploitation and killing of millions of indigenous individuals. This genocide had implications throughout the centuries (moving of indigenous to reservations and forcing them to go to "special" schools to strip these people of their identity and to Americanize them).

The associations with colonialism are very negative and violent, so the colonials feels somewhat negatively connotated to me.

Referring to the citizens of the American 'colonies' which fought against the British in the Revolutionary War. The Colonial or Continental Army, led by George Washington, which fought for the values of Freedom and Inclusion for which GW and its community also strive. Our mascot is named George, after all.

Colonialism. The active removal of Indigenous people for profit.

It represents a class of people who were murderers, conquerors, fascists, and racists. Colonials were those that caused mass genocides and destroyed indigenous cultures on the path of greed.

I think of colonizers

Colonials is a term honoring our national heritage. It refers to the brave colonists who, under the leadership of our university namesake George Washington, sacrificed "their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor" for the cause of liberty. It is a great mascot, that honors our university's spirit, our namesake, our veterans, and our nation at large. Only an ignoramus would argue that it embodies "colonialism" or "oppression." The context of our use of "colonial" is clearly a nod to the brave patriots of the War of Independence. That is not an endorsement of colonialism; it is honoring the memory of anti-colonialists, who fought and died in the name of liberty, equality, and national self-determination.

The Collins English Dictionary defines "colonialism" as "the policy and practice of a power in extending control over weaker peoples or areas," thereby, I see a colonial as a person who belongs to the colonizing nation.

I understand the term colonial to signify the history of colonization on hundreds of nations that implemented egregious suffering on the natives to the land. The effects the colonials have placed on these nations continue to this day.

People who were a part of colonizing or creating colony's in the new world which would ultimately become the United States of America.

It makes me think of colonialism and that painful and shameful period of American history. I don't know if it is intrinsically a bad term, but in the context of America, colonialism meant murder and displacement of the indigenous people.

White Anglo people who violently conquered and settled a land that did not belong to them using slave labor and their legacy in our society today which still disregards Native American people, reaps the benefits of unpaid labor, and celebrates that violence



What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

People who colonized lands. Definitely a negative connotation to the word.

The British colonists who settled in North America and established British colonies here.

One who lived in the colonial era of American history. Nothing more.

The first settlers in America who pushed to expand territory

Peoples who lived in colonial times

Colonialism, European empires, white supremacy

Founding intellect

An attempt to reference pre-revolutionary America that fails to consider the violent and problematic legacy of Imperialism and white supremacy that unfortunately still plagues America today.

Colonizers, cause of genocide, supported slavery

A member of the colonies of America before the United States were formed by a Declaration of Independence, Revolution, and formation of a government

It ties back to the early history of this country, implies servitude, and is connected to George Washington's legacy of founding fatherdom as well as slave owning.

It is an homage to the fact that our namesake was a founding father, but overlooks the destruction our founding fathers inflicted on indigenous communities through colonialism

First European settlers in the U.S.

Member of the Continental Army that freed the colonies from the bonds of tyranny of George III to establish a country with greater liberty and freedoms

Of, relating to, possessing, or inhabiting a colony or colonies. A reference to the British colonies or the colonial period in the US. I understand it in this context to mean that our university is choosing to continue the tradition of glorifying past human rights abuses such as colonialism and its mass exploitation, oppression, and systemic violence towards BIPOC. In our current society, it is blatantly obvious that the harms from colonization and the 'founding' of America are still relevant and incredibly harmful. By choosing to keep this moniker and claim ignorance, we would be opting out of taking a BASIC step towards admitting our responsibility to better our community for our BIPOC students. While it's essential to demonstrate a cultural shift by changing the moniker, this MUST be done with clear acknowledgement of what it represents AND transparency around what other actions are accompanying this name change in order to create actual substantive change. Symbols matter but they cannot be the only movement.

A group of colonizers, people in the colonies

"Colonials" is a nod to this country's beginning as an English territory.

People from imperial countries or relating to imperialism and such attitudes

Someone who invades and takes control of a land that does not belong to them, while hurting and taking advantage of the population to whom the land actually belongs.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

The term "Colonials" as used by the University is in reference to to the American born colonists during the American colonial period (1607-1765) and the American Revolution (1765-1783).

Colonizers pillaging the lands of Native Americans.

The term colonials has a strong association with genocide and displacement of the Anacostans and other Indigenous peoples of Washington DC.

Individuals who killed Native Americans and took over their home

Colonial to me means the people who lived in the original colonies

Colonial or colonials refers to the colonial period of American history and the people who lived in the original 13 colonials before the revolutionary war. It evokes the memory of the foundation and evolution of the country from colonial settlements into a fledgling nation.

People who displace or exploit indigenous peoples to obtain resources or to settle new lands.

People who lived during colonial era

colonists who opposed foreign rule

I associate it with "colonizers" which makes me uncomfortable and a bit of a sell out considering the US did a lot and continue to do a lot of damage to the territories they still occupy

European explorers and royalty that came to the US and other places in the world to claim them on behalf of their countries. Sometimes probably mostly violently.

Members of the 13 colonies

Adjective to describe nouns having to do with colonialism of North America by European nations.

(white) people who lived in the colonies in the early US

White people leaving their own countries to take over other countries

I associate it with colonialism.

founders of the united states; folks that arrived and settled in the colonies; colonizers of early America

Based on the idea of George Washington and the settling of America, however these are two very different eras of history. revolucionaries wouldn't have called themselves this after 200 years of the continents history. colonials recalls colonial-settler relationships where many people and societies living here before Europeans were overhauled and massacred.

Those who lived in the United States' colonies. Mostly poor, white, aggressive European immigrants.

Colonizers

Colonists in early America

Relating to colonizers or colonial times.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

adjective 1. relating to or characteristic of a colony or colonies. "British colonial rule" That's the literal definition, so I am not entirely sure how it is not associated with colonialism.

When I think of the word, I think of exclusion. Exclusion of Native Americans from their land and rights and the exclusion of being a student of color in a PWI with 95% white professors and faculty.

destruction, colonization, oppression, death of Native and Black people

A person from the period when George Washington lived.

colonialism and colonization which is NOT GOOD

A term that refers to the people living in the 13 colonies during and prior to the American Revolution

Someone from "Colonial America".

Early Americans

A reference to the colonization period and colonizers that enslaved and exploited people along with committing numerous genocides around the world

Not sure

people who are part of a colony or who colonize.

forcefully taking over the land of native people

I don't really know, I know it is offensive

It's a symbol of folks who partook in colonization of this country and displaced, abused, and murdered the people indigenous to this country, who are still suffering from the consequences of these harmful actions. It is a symbol of historical violence.

Colonialism which caused the enslavement, murder, and loss of culture of so many indigenous populations

13 colonies

literal colonizers

It means the people who colonized. Colonization is about rape, murder, genocide, forcing people to lose their culture, and exploiting their resources. I don't understand why a school with such a robust International Affairs program would choose to associate themselves with this word. Especially because in our classes we are so aware of the history of the word.

People who suppressed and murdered a lot of people.

Settler/colonizer

A celebration of the Americans from the 13 colonies forming the US

Colonials will always be tied to those who owned slaves or stood by those who did, the murder of indigenous peoples, the stealing of land from indigenous people, misogyny, and overall the mistreatment of anyone who was not WHITE or a MAN.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

The colonial was always a myth of the European powers. The colonial was the veneer of moral mission used to disguise economic exploitation. I refer you to "The Colonizer and the Colonized" by Albert Memmi for a more thorough discussion by a writer far more qualified than I.

It's someone who takes someone else's land and appropriates it as their own.

Early Americans who built our great nation for freedom for all. A strong tie to this university, something to be proud of as both current student and alum.

Someone who lived in the colonies prior to the independence movement. Colonials also refer to colonizers

The people who settled and thrived in the New World, and those who created the United States

The term "Colonials" refers to the group of people who lived in the American colonies at the time of the American Revolution. Many of whom actively rebelled against the British colonial administration in America and King George III.

From my understanding, "Colonials" is a term referring to the "establishment" and "colonization" of the US. It credits colonists with the forming and discovery of America, completely disregarding indigenous persons and the tragedies they endured at the hands of colonists who murdered them, took their land, and stripped them of the lives they knew.

The brave men and women that fought against the British empire for our freedom

The English who colonized America

I understand colonials to mean the people that came over to America to slaughter Native American and enslave black bodies.

The inhabitants of the United States during the colonial era.

what it means in the dictionary, relating to colony and habitation...

Those how advocate for and participate in colonization

colonization

The first settlers who sailed from England and discovered the New World

I think the term relates to colonialism, and people who have been colonized by Europeans. Colonials live under the rule of those who colonized their country.

definitely has connotations of white savior and the colonization and mistreatment of the Americas

Probably a term associated with George Washington

Colonials are the white settlers who committed genocide against indigenous people to exploit their resources and bodies for money and power.

It means a person that lived in the Colonial Era / Colonial America

It is a symbolic term used to denote the pioneers that first settled the America colonies.

White oppressors who came to rape, enslave, and destroy lands and people not of their own for the sake of their own civilization and passion.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

European oppression of indigenous populations

It refers to the British colonial subjects who fought to transform the British colonies into sovereign states.

Colonists

No

To me colonial has a dual meaning. It makes me think of colonist in the United States and pre-revolutionary war Americans. However it also invokes the colonial era of European and American expansion into Africa and the Pacific and many of the horrors of this period.

It relates to colonization.

Association with colonization and genocide.

Colonialism is a practice of domination, which involves the subjugation of one people to another. One of the difficulties in defining colonialism is that it is hard to distinguish it from imperialism. Frequently the two concepts are treated as synonyms. Like colonialism, imperialism also involves political and economic control over a dependent territory. ----Taken from Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

Instills a sense of pride and honor inseparable from humility and respect for your peers.

A reference to the origin of GWU as a university advocated and indirectly founded by George Washington's will, whose leadership was intrinsic to the United States, a former colony.

I am not sure. I imagine this might be a reference to inhabitants of the original 13 colonies.

White settler-colonists who committed genocide.

Colonials is a clear reference to our first president, and the commander-in-chief of the Colonial/Patriot forces in the American Revolution, George Washington--and those who rallied to his side. And President Washington is noteworthy in that he was an advocate for our University's founding, both in his first State of the Union message, and in subsequent remarks throughout the remaining years of his life. Our University is named for a man whose commitment to preserving the democratic underpinnings of our Revolution--so much so that he rebuked a proposed coup that would have installed him as President-for-Life--is a reason for pride. To ponder the suffering of Gen. Washington and the Colonial troops not so far away, across the Delaware River at Valley Forge, during the darkest days of the Revolution, is to understand that this great nation was born out of hardship. We should all be proud to be Colonials.

Colonizer, white Bostonians

Inhabitants of a colony

A group of people who came to America

Based on where I come from, the term "Colonial" would refer to a colony member/colonizer and the term would indicate an association with the original colonizers who came to America and participated in the genocide of the Native and indigenous people they came upon.

For me, a brown Desi immigrant woman, a "colonial" is someone who pillaged my homeland and raped and murdered my ancestors. They are one of the main reason a lot of my friends and family back home live in poverty and distress.

One of the first settlers of the US.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

I understand "colonial" to be a nod to the colonial era. Not necessarily referencing the horror and human rights violations that occurred during that time, but not exactly being sensitive to it either. Colonized places and peoples endured practically nothing but suffering, which is important to remember as we discuss the future of this moniker.

In the context of GW, I understand the term "Colonials" to refer to the foreign settlers of North America. Colonization occurred in many places across the globe, and the meaning of "colonials" varies depending on the context. In the context of GW, I specifically interpret this as the European settlers of the New England/East Coast areas.

People who have colonized a location with no regard for the people already living there, it is steeped in racism and imperialism.

Member/resident of a colony, which inherently means a complicit, if not active, role in colonizing.

First settlers in America

A colonial is a person who lives in a colony controlled by a colonizing country from a distance.

Who George Washington was.

American Colonists who fought against Great Britain for independence

the early american settlers, like the pilgrims

The schools mascot and moniker, nothing more.

Racist white people who stole land from Natives

A nod to George Washington, whose desire for an institute of higher education in DC influenced GWU's creation.

Colonial Militia in American Revolution

Colonials are the people from Europe and other nations that settled in what is known as America today to start a new state away from the repressive governments such as the British. However, as the British refused to concede power and increase taxes, civil war broke out leading to a new "idea" state individualism and its potential to provide freedom to any person.

I understand that Colonial refers to an integral part of American history, especially in the DC region and in regards to our government. However colonialism also alludes to the dominance of one group over another and the historic injustices that ensue. While recognizing that our country was founded on this antiquated principle, I don't think we need to celebrate it with the GW mascot.

people who lived in colonies

Historical term to reference and honor George Washington and the Colonial era, but it is more tightly woven and associated with colonialism in our times.

A person who leaves one nation state, usually a hegemony-class state or similar, and claims land that isn't theirs in some other part of the world. Historically, Colonials tend to exploit the local population and in many cases have enslaved them or trafficked them around the world to be enslaved elsewhere.

Just makes me think of colonizers; inhabitant of a colony

People who lived in the land now known as the United States before and after the American Revolutionary War.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Colonizing empires of White/Western nations that exploited the natives and resources of foreign lands, oftentimes leaving them years later in desperate conditions and civil conflict.

Sounds like colonist. I am a first-term grad student, so I don't really have a huge dog in the fight, I don't think of colonies, I think of colonizers.

Americans that kicked out the British and won independence for our nation.

Individuals that established colonies in the Americas. These people were from Europe, and they settled on land inhabited by Native Americans.

White people who ride in on a horse with funny hats to take over. Also the raping and pillaging.

The term Colonial refers to the people who came to America in the country's early years to create a better life for themselves. It carries a negative connotation with it, for the colonials knowingly inflicted disease, forced labor, and other hardships among the Natives residing in the colonized areas.

People who commit genocide against native americans and enslave black people

From what I understand, it is meant to be in reference to the American colonies that became the United States, however to me it carries both the general negative associations of colonization and imperialism, and the specific history of harm done by the American colonies and their actions towards other groups

"Colonials" really means "colonists"- people who settle land that does not belong to them, often at an unimaginable cost to the natives of that land. American colonists were instrumental in the genocide of Native American people across the continent.

I'm not sure how GWU decided on using it, but it does not strike me as culturally sensitive towards Native American students and community members. I personally feel that it represents the oppression Native American people by the early European settlers.

A person who participated in/did colonization to the native peoples in America upon its founding

Those who live on stolen land.

Founders of this nation.

Adventurous, ambitious, pioneers who founded the great U.S.A

the dictionary term...

A group of kiddos who want what isn't theirs and take it with force. Fuckheads.

Being of the time period of The 13 British Colonies.

I understand that it is supposed to represent the US founding fathers. However, wearing a sweatshirt that says "colonial" on it to represent my school while in a country that was once a colony of another nation felt extremely embarrassing during my semester abroad.

Those who colonized the Native Americans.

those who came to America as colonists. They were the first settlers and Americans as they made colonies. It's historical not racist.

Individuals from the colonial era of the United States, but such terms are a bit ethnocentric with biases in favor of white people from the US. Colonialization has many forms, accompanied by very dark histories.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

A representation of the people who came to America and settled, colonizing a land that was already inhabited.

Colonial: another term referring to the colonizers and conquistadors (aka conquerors) who invaded a place, resulting in genocide and enslavement of BIPOC and the destruction of cultures, for the sake of capitalism and imperialism.

Colonizers. Just a term we don't need to be associated with.

Being that our school is the George Washington University, I, and most people, think of "Colonials" to refer to the people who settled in America and created the American government, but only at the cost of Black people's freedom. The term seems outdated and almost inappropriate to cheer for at sports games or to represent on clothing when you consider the racial disparities and oppression that still exist in America today.

Overwhelmingly white European settlers who came to this region beginning in the late 1500s. Also associated with indigenous genocide, slavery, and a number of other ethically questionable practices even for the time period.

The George Washington University

To me, the Colonials has mixed messages - but, ironically, I'm not sure I dislike it. What I mean is I am both an enrolled Native American (Shawnee) as well as descended from people who fought the Revolutionary War. I love colonial history and architecture; I also despise settler-colonial mentality that has been problematic to Indigenous peoples. To me, George Washington is the epitome of Colonial and so if we ask this question then we must ask the question of the university. However, it seems very anti-patriotic to overthrow ideas of George Washington considered the issue of Independence and the reality that the Constitution and other documents contained a mix of messages ("merciless Indian savages" but also recognizing the pre- and extra-Constitutional rights of sovereignty to tribal nations). Feel free to ask me further about this [kdevault@gwu.edu](mailto:kdevault@gwu.edu)

It is in reference to the people of the thirteen colonies who formed this nation, but has some more insidious negative implications.

It means the people of a colony.

People who colonized the Americas resulting in theft of land of native people by way of war and genocide.

It means colonialism, aka taking over a minority group in order to exploit their resources

Landowning old white men with powdered wigs who, more often than not, profited from the free labor of enslaved Black bodies. It is also barely distinct from the term "colonizer," which is associated with the brutalization of native and non-white peoples (by white landowning men) for capitalist gain. It is a terrible mascot.

Foreign colonists who brutally murdered, enslaved, raped, and economically took advantage of local populations for generations to come.

The American Colonists

The Colonials are a term for members of the Colonial Army - the Army of George Washington in the Revolutionary War. Thus, if you served in that army, you were a "colonial."

I assume the term is meant to celebrate the beginning of the modern United States, however, it also evokes a history of violence, theft of native lands, and a period of our country's history when equality for all was a fiction for anyone who wasn't a white man.

Violence, rapists, pillagers, colonizers, white supremacists.

Colonizers

Colonizers - not a good look



What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

"Colonials" refers to the group that dominated the Colonial era of American history,, a time that is much celebrated but in reality had profound negative effects for many groups.

Colonizer

It is demeaning to people of color and I understand it to mean that we are representative of colonizers

People who came to a place (the US) and committed genocide for their own material benefit

Those who fought in the revolutionary war.

Colonial immediately brings to mind a history of extraction, oppression, and theft, either in the US history and present or elsewhere around the world. Colonials, as people who settled stolen land, participated directly in the colonial enterprise - an inherently violent and white supremacist project. While I understand the historical relevance of "colonials" to George Washington, this university's namesake, and to the US as a whole, that relevance carries with it the same historical meaning. The history of this university, this country, and this country's first president \*is\* a history of settler colonial violence.

Colonials refers to Colonial America and colonialism that emerged over the past few centuries and remains today. A phenomenon that my own parents and grandparents suffered through.

European colonists who settled in the (now) U.S. East Coast and later founded the U.S.

In this context Colonial Americans.

Settlers from British Empire

I understand it to represent the patriots who fought to create our country in the Revolutionary War.

Colonials are people who lived in a colony, such as the USA during British rule. The founding fathers, revolutionary war soldiers/ patriots are a good example of this

It's a word for colonists, but from the perspective of the country they came from and in a negative light.

A person living in a colony

A person from history.

In the context of our mascot, it is meant to refer to George Washington. The actual meaning is more closely related to the concept of colonialism which is what most students (and those on the outside who simply see the word "colonial") associate it with.

Member of the American colonies.

A group of people who have claimed land in order to establish and spread their political and social ideologies regardless of the original inhabitants of the land they settled into.

I understand the term "Colonials" to embody a dominating social group, comprised of white settlers, to oppress indigenous people in the Americas.

I think of it as another name for colonists who were the first European settlers who lived here. George Washington was one and led the colonials against the British for American independence.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

People who came to the U.S. and claimed Native American land as their own.

It refers to colonists like George Washington who revolted against the British and claimed independence.

People who have settled on land not originally theirs, typically has displaced pre-existing populations who had called that land their home and ruined centuries worth of sustainable land practices.

Colonials has a dangerous connotation, to refer to the bloody and inhumane colonization of territory that we inhabit as a mascot is frankly disgusting. Colonization was not a peaceful process, it involved genocide and hundreds of years of the erasure of native cultures and peoples from this land that is now known as the United States.

Those who conquer and destroy. Very negative connotation

It is gross and outdated

Colonials are people who enact the horrors of colonialism - exploitation, control, occupation, violence, for economic profit. It's a disgusting name and terrible representation of GW that actively hinders the school's reputation - my friends at other universities comment on how embarrassed they would be to be a "colonial."

Bad

A false representation of the people of built America and freed the nation from British rule.

yes

Colonialists are people who came to the United States and stole land, raped indigenous people, and claimed ownership.

The people that came to America to settle and "civilize" stolen land, helped carry out a genocide, and initiated a long process that would leave indigenous Americans landless and powerless.

colonialization - the oppression of native americans

people living in colonies, directly tied to british colonial rule

Colonials were a group of people who oppressed and massacred indigenous people and that oppression and trauma is still felt today.

the english colonists who came to the region and settled the land, and later fought the British in the revolutionary war

people who colonized an area, in this case, colonized the United States

People of a colony

relating to or characteristic of a colony or colonies.

The people that colonized the Americas for personal freedom.

Warriors

I think it has to do with the school affiliating with the original 13 colonies of the United States (although, frankly, I'm not sure).

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Colonials for me is associated with colonialism which implies and political overtaking of a country, filling it with settlers, and using it for economic purposes. Hence, colonials means the people involved in that idea.

European settlers in America prior to the creation of the United States.

a retro american

Colonizers. People who settle foreign lands in search of financial, religious, or capital gain, at the expense of the native people and environment.

A person who is part of a colony

It refers to the colonists who founded the American state, among them George Washington, who specifically called for the creation of a federal university, which GW was before it became private.

Term showing affiliation with George Washington

Colonials is an exclusive moniker because it refers to people who colonized other communities. Colonials is offensive because it celebrates this colonization. Additionally, it is historically inaccurate, because George Washington himself fought the Revolutionary War in order to stop being part of a colony. We need to listen to the students, especially students of color and indigenous students, who feel insulted and excluded by the Colonials moniker and remove it.

Colonials are the people who lived in overseas colonies of European empires. To me, the term is neither oppressive nor offensive. "Colonials" references the early American settlers who cultivated Britain's North American territories. "Colonials" is a term of reverence for and celebration of the enduring men and women who developed the American colonies and subsequent United States. Colonials are the Founding Fathers, early American tradesmen, fishermen, merchants, etc. "Colonials" embodies the enterprising spirit of early American settlers who created better lives for themselves, their families, and their community. While undoubtedly acknowledging the often terrible actions committed by European powers and colonials themselves, the term is a celebration of the best of American ingenuity and derring-do. I believe that we can recognize and celebrate the positive aspects of colonials, while simultaneously understanding their shortcomings. Yes, it may be difficult for some to reconcile the two characteristics, but life and history are neither easy nor inherently good. Coming to terms and facing our past is a positive learning experience. There is a worthwhile conversation to be had about how we deal with contentious issues in history. Running away from them, in my opinion, is not worthwhile or constructive. As a prestigious American university, GW should be striving toward these types of conversations and ideas in education, not simply eschewing them because they are either contentious or difficult. This does not diminish anyone who believes that the term is offensive or oppressive, but rather recognizes that issues, terms, and ideas are not simply black or white, but grey. Free and open discussion or debate in a constructive manner is a positive thing, running away from that which scares us or that we find challenging is cowardice. Colonials as a term is the embodiment of all these best aspects of enterprising American ingenuity. "Colonizers" or "colonists," meanwhile is the recognition of imperialism's worst aspects. This may sound like a distinction without a difference, but that would be a false conflation. Colonials are Betsy Ross, Benjamin Franklin, Crispus Attucks, and, unsurprisingly, George Washington.

People who came and colonized an area. Adventurers, explorers, people looking for new lives, new beginnings. They founded this country.

Multiple meanings: (1) those who lived in the 13 colonies and (2) advocates for colonialism

people who participate in the colonization and brutalization of indigenous people and societies (both historically and currently)

colonialism, a part of history responsible for the rape and genocide of native peoples around the world

Colonialization is a form of slavery, and that is then connected to our school moniker.

Individuals who colonize a land - often one or several that do not belong to them.

Colonials established settlements across the eastern seaboard. They essentially created the beginning of the United States as we know it. It is a powerful name that is apart of our history that cant be erased. GW should keep its moniker for its powerful meaning to everyone in the US.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Europeans who "colonized" or stole this country. This title and history holds with it hundreds of years of violence, oppression, and trauma for various communities of color.

settlers

The first people who came to colonize America. They didn't care about the Native Americans they killed when they were doing so.

not "colonizers" but American patriots preceding and during the War for Independence

White supremacy, racism, genocide, theft, rape, etc

People who colonize.

people who take part in and enact colonialism, or taking over and claiming other people's land

People, typically those of European descent, who settle in a land different from that in which they came. Many times this "new land" is already the home to a native group of people, who are subsequently ousted in some way. The settling country is typically more powerful and influential.

Yes

I understand it to be a reference to the colonists of early America.

I understand the term "Colonials" to mean the groups of people that colonized America, both in terms of starting a new nation and of oppressing the existing groups that lived where they landed.

Slave traders

Colonials refers to colonization, which generally means that a dominant culture is conquering another in order for it to thrive

Colonials, by definition, refers to colonizers which implies unrightfully controlling another group of people. The word colonial is not positive, and I would like a mascot that I am proud to represent.

I'm an international student; this term seemed bizarre to me and steeped in problematic assumptions more appropriate 2 centuries ago.

I understand the term to be a reference to early Americans, however I do acknowledge that the term's association with colonialism and subjugation is problematic.

Just a team name, man.

PATRIOT!!!

The original 13 colonies of the US

Colonials are fighters for independence, freedom, and liberalism.

Americas first settlers

A reference to both the 13 colonies that this nation is founded on and those who fought for freedom from British tyranny.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Rooted in the foundation of our nation

colonizer i.e. the white people that came to what is now the U.S and took land away from those who were already there

People living in the US between 1700 and 1800

People who colonized.

Colonials in reference to the first groups of people to come from Europe/UK and colonize the North American continent

The term (at times used in a derogatory manner) by the UK / Europe to describe those who were born to, chose or were mandated to emigrate to a land under the control of another state.

People that are colonizing a geographic area other than their own; an area with native peoples already living in it.

characteristic of, relating to, possessing, or inhabiting a colony or colonies. (often capital) characteristic of or relating to the 13 British colonies that became the United States of America (1776) (often capital) of or relating to the colonies of the British Empire

Invader

It refers to the people who colonized the United States, taking sacred and non-sacred Native American land by force and doing irreparable harm to both the environment and the people. As Americans have reexamined our relationship with our imperial past and its long-term effects, the monkey has become inappropriate.

A brave group of individuals who took a journey to begin a new life in an unknown land. Just like GWU students when they come to GWU, complete their studies, and head out into the world upon completion. If the name is changed, you might as well change the name of the university too. As per GW law professor Jonathan Turley, "Not only were the colonials not a manifestation or celebration of colonialism, they were the very symbol of resistance to colonialism. They fought the British Empire to secure self-rule. In doing so, they defeated the greatest world power of its time."

Yes.

Yes.

The Founding Fathers of our nation.

Our founding fathers and their leadership that established our country, including President George Washington. Colonials has a very different meaning to me than Colonialism, which is exploitative in nature.

Symbol of institutionalized white supremacy

related to the army.

In the context of our use - it is a mascot, a symbol. For any school, a mascot must represent strength, courage, and leadership - and ours just does that. Now colonials represent those who live in a colony. To me, and our usage, our ancestors, those who lived in the 13 colonies comes to mind.

A person that lived in the original 13 colonies

While I understand it is supposed to be a celebration of the US and our nation's capitol, I think proudly referring to ourselves as the Colonials glorifies a flawed system. We grow up learning that colonialism and American exceptionalism are key to a better world, when in reality these ideals bring further division. With over 14% of the student body being international students and a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, we must take into consideration the exclusive values being promoted by our mascot.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Those of a colony. People belonging to a colony. Unfortunately, 'colony' also happened to be the term used by Colonizers to refer to the countries they exploited for centuries.

Colonists from Europe to America

American pioneers.

People from one place populating a new place, usually with the intention of assimilating the people who are already there. Historically, colonials are usually white people showing up in black and brown countries and stealing land/resources from the people who live there.

The term colonial refers to the population that inhabited the East Coast after it was colonized by Britain.

Those who settled in America to escape persecution.

Individuals or a group that exert control (governmental etc) over another group or area that exists as a colony.

A colonial is a foreigner who colonizes a place.

Colonials traveled to "new" worlds and took over forcefully. I could never consider "colonials" a team I would want to support.

Sounds like colonizers

Those who lived in colonies.

I think of the American Colonial Period' but in a much greater range, I think of global colonialism.

In my opinion, "colonials" refer to those living in the British North American colonies who rebelled against the authority of the crown in the American Revolutionary War for Independence. This underpins one of the most pertinent American values - that of freedom and individual agency.

It represents a part of America's history that we don't need to celebrate

In my mind, the term "colonial" draws a direct connection to the practice of colonization, and in the context of GW and the fact that it is clearly a reference to George Washington and the other white settlers of the Revolutionary War era, to me the term is synonymous with "colonizers".

Settlers of the 13 original colonies

I associate the term with a negative connotation.

Relating to colonization and white people stealing land from the indigenous peoples that were there before them.

a native or inhabitant of a colony. This is the dictionary definition and something I associate the word with.

fighters against the Brits

I associate the term colonials with the violent removal of indigenous knowledge, practices, and beliefs. I think it is important for the university to consider removing the moniker and replacing it with one that reflects the university's current values.

When I think of colonial I think of someone who carries out colonialism by enforcing their own beliefs and ways of life on the people and land they are colonizing.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

A "colonial" is a person who lives in a colony or under colonialism (and is usually a member of the group of people who has supplanted the indigenous people from the land on which the colony was founded).

A person who lives in a colony. I see the argument made by those who claim it is offensive, but the United States began as a colony - and so was George Washington a colonist. There is a difference between the "GW Colonials" and the "GW Colonizers"

The people that founded this country and built it from nothing to become the most free country after escaping an oppressive regime

People who colonized and stole land

Listen do we really want to be associated with colonialism more than we already are? I mean, it's bold we're explicit about it but we really don't have to be.

People who lived in a colony

Colonial violence White supremacy Genocide Evil Misogyny Systemic racism Erasure of indigenous cultures and experiences Glorified retelling of the past from the perspective of the colonizer I almost didn't attend GW because of it

The colonial soldiers that served under George Washington, as opposed to the Red Coats that they fought against. Pretty basic.

One who has colonized land and/or people.

Men who founded the USA, like George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. They did some kinda shitty stuff, but I don't think the name colonials necessarily refers to the shitty stuff they did.

European colonists

People who lived in the colonies

I think that, while it is said what colonials did to many indigenous people, it is also a work for pioneers and innovators.

of or relating to the original 13 colonies forming the United States

The GW Mascot, people that came to American for a better life

A historical denomination of people who settled in the land.

revolutionary war era residents of new england states

Its a term referring to the fact that America started from colonists who came from England and other European Nations.

I understand that it can refer to the individuals living in the 13 colonies under British rule (which is what I believe GW believes it to mean), however, I think that meaning has been overtaken by the meaning associated with American colonizers and imperialism.

A group of people who invade the land and take it from those who are already living there, claiming it to be their "newfound" land.

Someone who lives in a colony, presumably having helped to colonize it or who is at least benefiting from the colonization at the detriment of the land's natives

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

A racist past that has been praised and used as a crutch for mistreatment of individuals in our society. Isn't the slightest possibility of making one student uncomfortable wearing the logo or rooting for the "colonials" at a sporting event enough to change the mascot?!

The people who lived in the British colonies

A person who fought in the American Revolution and contributed to systemic racism.

People who take over a section of land.

People who travel to a foreign land, claim it as their own, and devastates its people and natural resources for their own financial gain.

It has somewhat of a racist connotation

It is the identity of the sports teams, but also refers to the colonialization of Western Europeans of the native people of this continent.

white colonizers. people who owned slaves. racist people. i associate it with gentrification as well.

Racism

Founding Fathers of our country

A racist, imperialist, and inherently white supremacist term that glorifies the massacre of indigenous Americans, the history of slavery in the US, and the structural racism of the US.

When I think of "colonials" I think of white colonizers that came to America and took advantage of Indigenous peoples and their land.

Someone who lives on or otherwise profits from stolen indigenous lands, whether in the United States or abroad.

People who lived in US colonies/people who "colonized" the US

early Americans who supported American independence from Britain

The Colonials moniker, to me, is a representation of a society that accepts nothing short of greatness, standing up for what they believe in, and being treated with dignity due a human being.

Soldiers who fought for equality and justice for all

When I hear colonial/colonials, the automatic instinct isn't to refer to GW but the traditional meaning of it. Which is colonialism, colonization of a territory.

People who have taken a part of the system of colonialism which is an occupation and act stealing of ones land and rights

People who lived in the colonies

Reference to George Washington

It was the people who colonized the US

People who lived in the colonies



What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

For Americans

An innocuous term in some settings, but offensive in others. The term "Colonials" has its place in history and modern-day conversation, but as a mascot of a respectable, international, higher educational institution like GW, the term reflects offensive, unempathetic attributes that discourage many students from taking pride in their own moniker. As a student of GW, to me, the term "Colonials" means racism, genocide, marginalization, control, power, and greed. The term "Colonials" is not offensive in and of itself, but when used as a moniker of a university that educates students from around the world, some of whom live in colonized states, the term conveys its most vile connotations. Thus, as it is related to the moniker of GWU, the term "Colonials" should be removed and replaced with a more sensitive term that is more representative of the student body today.

People who came to America

Those individuals or groups of individuals who transitioned from England and engaged in facilitating and forming groups here in the states.

Yep. Its crap.

Colonial = people who stole this land away from the people who were already living there

The individuals who came to the US in order to colonize land that was already occupied by Indigenous peoples.

I understand it to mean the white men who came to this country and stole from natives.

I understand it to be a representation of the colonizers of America.

Imperialists coming to and seizing foreign lands.

The settlers of a colony of an Empire.

I understand the term Colonials to mean the founders of our country. In the broader context that George the Colonial is our mascot, I think its fairly apparent that the GW Colonials don't represent all colonials and colonialism. Instead, the GW Colonials represent our founders who rebelled against the colonial system.

The term "colonials" represents the vicious colonization of the Americas and continued oppression of Indigenous peoples today. To use this as a school mascot is to blatantly show support for the genocides and systematic oppression that occurred due to colonizers. Additionally, it puts students, faculty, staff, and alumni in the uncomfortable position of cheering for and supporting these corrupt people instead of a cute animal. There is no need to support colonials, especially in 2020—this is way overdue, the university should be ashamed of itself.

Colonials in reference to the residents of the historical 13 colonies

Tradition and resourcefulness. Ingenuity, freedom, and bravery.

Primarily White, Western European settlers immigrating to the US and committing genocide

It's the name for the army that served under George Washington during the American Revolution. It was called that because they were fighting on behalf of the American colonies against Britain, not because they themselves were colonizers.

colonizers

An old war term, nothing associated with race or anything sensitive. I am opposed to the renaming of anything, including the moniker. I think it is silly. A name of a building should not offend anyone.

Those who participated in the stealing of land from indigenous people, essentially colonizers.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

It's how GWU students refer to themselves, also in a sports setting.

People who settled on stolen land

Affiliation with white settler colonialism and Native-American genocide

The first settlers of the US

representative of the American Colonists

Historical reference to all Americans-regardless of race or gender-who lived under British rule as citizens with very little political representation.

Glorifying Colonizers

Colonial is an oppressive imperial individual who has participated in the erasure of cultures, religions, and more.

Colonizers (a native or inhabitant of a colony)

To mean founders

represents the honorable men & women who fought against the oppression of religious individuals and they fought for all those who believe in justice, liberty, and the rule of law - hallmarks of democracy.

In the context of our school, understand "colonials" to mean the colonial soldiers/army that fought in the Revolutionary War.

Settlers

patriotic individuals.the mascot.

george washington was a party of the colonies so he was a colonial in what is now our country

Western Europeans who exploited indigenous peoples for personal economic gain

Under the context of the university's location, a reference to the settlers in the 13 colonies.

The "founders" of this nation monopolizing on the land of this nation's indigenous peoples.

To reference colonizers and more broadly colonization. We have normalized this term in the US, I am from New England and this was ingrained in me as a child, but this limited viewpoint needs to be changed moving forward. Get rid of it. It is embarrassing.

Europeans who arrived in the New World to claim land for themselves and their country. The endeavor led to the genocide and enslavement of indigenous people around the world and created power structures that continue to severely harm people of color around the world.

People that colonized the United States. Not great.

imperialism and colonization

The exploitation and destruction of people of color and their cultures by Western society

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

An original inhabitant or native of a colony – a founder that selflessly built a strong foundation for the countless generations of people to live off of and build from following the colonial.

When I think "colonials" I think of European settlers in America.

I think its completely inappropriate to have "Colonials" as a mascot. Colonials reminds me of foreign invaders taking land from native people which was unethical.

The United States was the first modern nation born in revolution and the overthrowing of foreign imperial rule. 13 colonies came together from a union which would proceed to become the arsenal of democracy and champion of liberal values. The success of liberal values abroad was a product of our revolutionary example, despite the many flaws of the United States throughout its history. To reject the American legacy as having moved the ball of Liberty forward is give an emerging illiberal right and illiberal left ammunition to argue that liberal values are unamerican.

Colonial is a derogatory term given to settlers in British colonies by mainland Britons. I think it is like Americans to take offensive terms, like colonial or Yankee, and make them something for Americans. However, colonialism is a dark stain on our history and it should not be forgotten, but it should not be honored.

Yes i do, I dont think the people who want to change it have a grasp of the word or its historical context. I think you are letting outrage culture take over. shame.

European Settlers of North America

Relating to or characteristic of a colony or colonies a Native or inhabitant of a colony dictionary definitions matter, not subjective feelings about an assumption of a word's definition

I think of it in terms of the people that founded America as well as a nod to our first President. And as a retired military member I also appreciate the nob towards those that fought for our country

People who colonize and appropriate land and indigenou people in that land

Member or supporter of the aggregate 'George Washington University'

The power associated with the Colonial era in early America

A historic reference to the colonies that eventually became the United States and how individuals from those colonies ultimately formed these United States. The term honors them.

Colonials, at the inception of the moniker, was intended to mean the soldiers who fought under George Washington during the American War for Independence. However, this name was primarily used by those on the British side of the war as derision for American "colonials" who owed allegiance to the British crown. In the centuries since, it has meant those from whom the metropole extracts wealth under the guise of "civilizing", and has taken on a racist undertone.

A reference to colonial America

To me, it is an unfortunate reminder of Colonial America and its racist, imperialist views. I understand that it is a throwback to the university's origins, but to many students, it recalls images of genocide, slavery, and racism. Who benefitted from the alleged freedom and unity that the moniker is said to represent? It certainly wouldn't have been those that look like university's students of color. Who suffered directly at the hands of Colonial Americans and their beliefs? Those that look like the university's students of color; more likely than not, some of the students' own ancestors. The "Colonials" moniker is not as representative of the student body as some believe, and I urge the school to take into account the racist implications that students of color think about every time they see the "Colonials" moniker.

Residents of the 13 British colonies in the Americas that won independence from England; the hidden premise being that the "colonization" that created these colonies involved systematically removing Native Americans from the land.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Dominant/ colonizers

I believe the term colonials has negative connotations and history and is offensive to indigenous peoples and other minorities. Colonialism should not be celebrated and we need to acknowledge that it has always been wrong.

People, mostly of European origin, who chose to go to the continent that is now North America (as is also the case for South and Central America) and forcibly invade it, and in the process, they killed millions of indigenous peoples.

It is merely descriptive: more precisely of a historical period that is SEPARATE from the imperial period (late 19th century). The use of the term colonial era is an acceptable way to briefly and efficiently categorize the Washington's era.

Persons involved with habitation in or creation of a colony.

Colonials to me represents the people in charge of the colonization of my ancestors. As someone with native roots, it is deeply discouraging to see these figures glorified. And the fact that there are no indigenous centric courses makes it seem as though this institution only cares about one side of history.

Referring to a colonist-someone who establishes of colony on a newly 'discovered' plot of land. In the American context, this is referring to someone who established a colony through the rape, pilage, and complete decimation of the Native Americans who were already living in these lands for thousands of years prior.

I understand the term to be a symbol of power of one group over others. George Washington himself was never a "Colonial."

Colonial: relating to or characteristic of a colony or colonies

People who lived in the American colonies

Imperialist

The intrepid individuals that built the greatest Republic in the history of the world.

Colonials in the context of American (and generally Western) history means those who travelled to the Americas, Africa, and Asia in search of resources. This term denotes individuals who engaged in rape, pillaging, torture, abuse, and genocide of indigenous peoples. It refers to people who subjugated other human beings, forcing them to work for their "empires." Even though the system of colonialism has been put to an end and countries have independence today, the destabilizing effects exist. The term colonials frankly makes one think of racist notions, which makes no sense for students trying to rally behind their sports teams or have pride in their school. I have not once referenced the mascot in discussing my experience at GW with others, because I have grown to be ashamed of it.

a native or inhabitant of a colony

The dehumanizing practice of colonialism

Historic forefathers of this country.

People who colonize. I'd be hard pressed to find someone who didn't think of that meaning upon first hearing the moniker.

It seems quite historic and quite dated if you ask me.

It is a term for someone who colonizes others and heavily implies centuries of suffering experienced by millions at the hands of others.

Interchangeable with the word "settler," in a foreign land. Also can be described as "colonizer" and you all know what that means

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

People who forcefully take others' land and ruin their culture.

An oppressive group. Every time I hear it I can't help but think of "colonize".

Someone who settles in a colony, which in general seems like an outdated concept. Further it has associations with the act of colonizing, which ultimately led to the oppression of many indigenous peoples.

I know it is meant to mean the people that came here... but its problematic and to me just celebrates an inhumane colonialism that we dont acknowledge enough as a university.

yes

Individuals who helped settle our nation during the colonial period prior to the American revolution.

Colonial in reference to white colonizers that took over lands that we use and appropriate in the present day.

Early American settlers

People who colonized the United States

historic patriots

Colonials to me represents the name for people or citizens of the US when our country was first beginning.

Those who have "colonized" North America and taken land from Native Americans

"Colonials" represents people who participate in a colony, where the colony is based on the oppression and exploitation of another group of people. The term colonial is not a neutral term, even if it is spun as being a "member" of a community. The historical baggage and power dynamics of colony/ies/zer/zed is indexed by the term "colonial."

Initially the term brings to mind the revolutionary war and the securing of American independence. However, it also does bring to mind the damaging legacy of colonialism.

Colonials is referring to the first Europeans that arrived to the Americas - during the period of George Washington.

colonizers

early settlers in the US or those fighting for independence from Great Britain

The original Colonizers of the United States

Colonials pays homage to the American Continental Army under George Washington (given the mascot and the name of the school) that fought against the colonizers, who were the British in this case.

Early settlers

It can mean one of two things. Either someone who is a colonizer or someone originally from the former British colonies, today the U.S.

In relation to American history, a term used for the American Colonists of the 13 colonies. A group of people who were seeking to separate from Colonialism in the British Empire. Colonials is quite the opposite of colonialists.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

White people invading lands and imposing their rules and regulations upon the native people, in addition to exploiting the people and resources.

People who are colonizers, specifically the Europeans who settled in America and claimed the land for themselves

Pioneers of the forming of the United States

I assume it refers to the people of the thirteen colonies.

A person in the 1700s who lived in one of the 13 colonies while they were under British rule.

Colonials are people who live within the colony of an empire, especially those whose ancestry can be traced to the homeland of the empire. They are typically second-class within that empire and often do not enjoy the full rights and status of residents in the empire's mother/father land.

I understand Colonials to mean residents of a civilization/colony that was founded via colonization (which may have been accomplished in violent and inhumane ways).

Colonials=colonialism. Colonialism is responsible for the deaths of millions and enslavement of millions.

It's a historic moniker that allows us to recognize and remember the importance of our nation's beginnings, the founding fathers' dreams and the ideals of which this nation was founded upon.

A group of people who invaded North America with the goals of colonizing and expanding their empire's control, they also enslaved the Native American population.

An individual who associates with colonization

Celebrating a legacy of colonialism that we should instead be engaging with in conjunction with indigenous peoples

I see it as a reference to the days when what is today the U.S. was part of the British colonial empire. The 13 Colonies were full of colonists, or colonials. George Washington lived around the same time and was the main individual responsible for creating an independent nation out of the existing colonies. I don't personally see it as a troublesome term, more historical than anything else. Although, if someone on our campus does find it offensive, I would not have a problem with changing the moniker, the most important thing is that everyone feels accepted and welcome at our school.

an individual who is a resident of a colony. To some groups it could be deemed offensive since the British Colonies that predated this country took land from indigenous people

One who lives in an area they colonize

People who lived in the 13 colonies before the Revolutionary War

Historical term for an American colonizer

An individual who lived in colonial America

It's about our history as formerly being a colony to the British and then overcoming that.

To indicate the earliest European peoples who traveled at great risk for a new life to settle the 'new world.' They could have been called settlers, but they identified with their lands of origin (primarily Britain). Since they were British subjects on 'new' land they formed new British colonies. Hence Colonials

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

People who came from one place to forcibly conquer and settle in a different place

They killed the natives and enslaved black people. They also hated catholics, Jews, Italians and the Irish.

In my opinion, the term "Colonials" (in the context of our mascot) refers to the name people who moved to the Americas from England were given during George Washington's time, as well as the time of the American Revolution.

A colonial is a person living in a colony. In the American context, a colonial is a white, European colonizer. Colonials refer to the commencement of an abhorrent history of the genocide of Indigenous peoples, enslavement of Africans, Black people, and Indigenous people, and irreversible exploitation of land and poor people. Colonials harken a history of violence against people, and an embrace of the GW moniker means an approval of the continuation of this violent, deadly legacy.

People who fled religious persecution to forge their way to a new world.

mascot

The Europeans that came over when the US was still just colonies.

A misplaced point of pride in the system of imperialism.

The colonials moniker is related to the colonists mainly from Britain according to my understanding.

Simply the mascot.

People who were originally sent over from their home country to establish "colonies". They raised people who were citizens of these colonies therefore making them Colonials. It's the same meaning as "Americans" who are born in America. "Indians" Who are born in India, etc. And then become citizens of those places.

People from the colonial time period. It also promotes colonization.

Colonials are the people who committed the genocide of the indigenous people of turtle island and claimed the land and then afterwards claimed to 'discover' the land/

A Colonial is someone who colonizes. I can see how people might not like being colonized though.

Colonials represent the proud term used to define what all of us in this country previously were. America was not an independent nation before the late 18th century. The territories that now consist as states were colonies of European powers or were managed by native Americans. The term colonials shows how far we have come as a country and as an educational community. To remove that from the school removes a bit of our heritage and what this school and its namesake, George Washington, stand for. If there needs to be a name change from colonials, I think George Washington would approve of "Continentials" for the Continental Army, of which Washington was commander in chief.

I understood it as: We are George Washington. George Washington was a Colonist or something a long those lines. While it does not have a negative connotation to me I understand why some feel that way

A person that is a native or inhabitant of a colony.

someone/ a country that colonized another

racism <3

The colonial settlers of the 17th century

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Well frankly I find the term less a reference to colonialism through the conquest of the Americas, but rather a reference to the American colonies, although I understand this term is not pleasant for other folks. I'm not all that tied to it, so if people are particularly vociferous about it, I'm not opposed.

It represents a group of past American settlers, but it also represents the genocide they inflicted upon the Indigenous people.

Rulers of a colony

Someone from the society/time of George Washington

I understand it to mean the people that traveled from overseas to colonize what would become the USA.

I understand that the intended moniker is to celebrate the revolutionaries who established American independence, I also see it as celebrating the Europeans who first established themselves in North America and took the land and lives of Native Americans. I see it as glorifying the conquest of another group of people and continuing to support the violent and unjust actions that have led to profound inequalities today.

The colonials are those who kept slaves before it was abolished.

I honestly don't understand the connotation Colonials is supposed to have for students

A term used in reference to those living in the American colonies prior to the Revolutionary War period.

In the context of the university moniker, "Colonials" is meant to reference the heroic patriots that were members of the continental army that served under the command of then general, George Washington. These "Colonials" fought to gain independence for the American colonies from British rule.

Colonizers and not something to be proud of

It refers to the colonizers of what can be considered the "Thirteen Colonies"

To me it's the first military members of the US.

Yes

People who colonized and enslaved Africans in the colonies. Colonial means slave-owner or slavery supporter.

U.S. colonists

Early American settlers/colonizers

The first to come to America from Europe to colonize and create the United States of America.

Yes

White colonizer

The term "colonials" represents a painful history of racism and oppression. Colonialism destroyed societies and created major world inequality. I think it is shameful that our mascot represents something so awful.

Brave Americans that fought for the establishment of a new country that would work towards a system that protects the individual rights of every citizen.



What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

It was a name used to refer to the early settlers in our country, through to the point the U.S. achieved its independence. I always thought it an apt moniker for GW given that our namesake himself was a leading colonial.

Someone who colonized an area. Negative connotations

I feel like I have no real clear understanding on its intended definition because we have very little school spirit.

Colonizers; people who steal occupied land and displace natives, usually with violence.

That the University was built by, and for, white settler colonialists who had no intention to recognize the Native land they stole to build it, or the Black labor it has taken to build and maintain it. Obviously, in turn, this excludes (violently) any students, faculty, staff, etc. who are now or historically been affected by settler colonialism.

It feels kinda made up. I get that it's supposed to be patriotic and stuff but 1) I don't really know who you would classify as a "colonial" in American history and 2) in 2020 it's just racist. It might not have been considered racist before, but things are different now.

Soldier in George Washington's army

unpopped popcorn

GW is the colonials. Colonials means American and the school is in the heart of America. Colonials, evading oppression, founded a land of freedom and prosperity. They included Catholics, Protestants, Jewish people from all over the world. The colonies founded the melting pot we now know as the United States. Colonial means inclusive American.

I have no idea what they intended. From my perspective, I think of colonists coming to different lands and imposing their culture and will on indigenous people. Taking control of their bodies, forcing them to move. Massacre of Native Americans too. Taking people from Africa. It's just an ugly term.

American colonists before the revolutionary war

Colonials is a term that references the people of the colonial era of the US that our school uses in reference to the students. For example, Marshall University's mascot is the buffalo and refers to its student body as the Thundering Herd. GW's overall mascot (besides the hippo) is George Washington, and they refer to the student body as the Colonials. This may also have been used to refer to sports teams, although the hippo has become a new mascot.

Unsure.

European colonists in America pre-revolutionary war

reference to the people who showed up in the US and decided it was their land

Colonials in this context relates to the members of the original 13 American colonies. However I understand that the moniker could be taken to represent the legacies of colonialism, which has had a negative impact on many different cultures and people

Americans living in the 13 original colonies.

nothing good.

Those who wrongly colonized the Americas and other territories that did not belong to them and killed indigenous communities and cultures, laying the base for a system of oppression that still exists today.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Founding Fathers -- However I know it means other things to other people, especially that of settler and colonizer to indigenous land.

Someone who lived in America when the states were still just colonies.

I understand Colonials to mean the inhabitants of the American colonies, particularly during and around the Revolutionary War era.

To me the term brings to mind the same imagery as a colonizer

The settlers of the Americas who came from Europe

People who colonize

A group of individuals who move to another country with the intent to exploit its natural resources or inhabitants for their own benefit.

A person who takes a non-standard path in life to develop something new and courageous. A risk taker. A fighter.

Negative - makes me think of the history of colonialism even if this is not what the term is supposed to mean

For me when I think of colonials, I think back in American history to when people were coming to this country. And while there is something to be said about the positive aspects of that, there are numerous negative aspects that outweigh the positive in my opinion.

A reminiscence of a history of oppression and land grabbing. Definitely not an appropriate term for a university moniker.

I believe it refers to the Europeans who arrived on this continent, committed genocide against the Native Americans and proceeded to build this nation.

A historical term for early Americans who laid the groundwork for America

offensive

I associate it with Christopher Columbus and other western Europeans who colonized land previously inhabited by indigenous tribes.

Settlers that maintained their political allegiance to their home country, while also displacing current inhabitants.

oppression and lies

yes

A colonizer of the world. It has negative connotations to people like me, a cultural and racial minority.

It carries a negative connotation due to the fact that it comes from the word colonization, meaning colonize. I understand that although the Americans from the 13 colonies during the Revolutionary War referred to themselves as the colonists or colonials, one cannot ignore the meaning of Colonials/Colonists - which is a group of people settling or inhabiting a colony, despite that colony not being their own land to begin with.

Settler colonists, slaveholding "founding fathers," people who displaced native peoples and are responsible for their ongoing genocide

I representation of those that set the landscape for this nation to exist.

A reminder of the colonial, genocidal legacy of George Washington (the man and the university)

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Colonizers. People who killed Native Americans.

association w/ power imbalance, ethnic & racist violence

People who lived in the Colonial era.

Typically, "Colonials" refers to the non-Native Americans who settled in what is now the United States prior to the beginning of the Revolution and up through the foundation of the United States.

In the past, it was a bunch of wildly Conservative Christians who came to start a theocracy after people in Europe weren't conservative enough, and also killed/displaced my ancestors. It's also become a rallying cry for white supremacists, facists, and other people I'm "sure" (sarcastic) the university doesn't want to associate with.

White Europeans who settled in North America declared independence from England.

A racist and harmful term associated with cruel individuals who erased culture, stole land, killed thousands to millions to people for monetary gain and continues to represent oppression, white supremacy, and outright torture.

People who colonized indigenous communities for religious, monitary, or patriotic reasons ignoring and erasing the local culture, history, and prosperity.

I understand that it's related to U.S. history, but the term colonize is not something to be proud of even though I of course benefit from the colonization of the United States as a non-indigenous American.

Not sure

racist roots

People that engage in colonialism.

relates to British colonies in America

White Europeans who pillaged, raped, and committed genocide against millions of indigenous people and stole their land claiming to "civilize" civilizations that were more civil than the Europeans. They erased cultures without batting an eye.

Racism and imperialism.

Relating to or characteristic of a colony or colonies.

A term representing a not just a type of person, but a symbol of the history of our Country. The founding fathers of the country, a symbol of which I'm proud to call myself a colonial. Colonial to me means someone who lived in of the thirteen original colonies.

yes

related to colonialist

The "colonials" in a historical context where the people who lived within the first original thirteen colonies of America. Looking at the time George Washington was alive, these colonials were not necessarily the people who settled the colonies, but they might be descendants of settlers. Many colonials were fighting for freedom and for their basic rights during the time of George Washington's leadership.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

A group of white men who "discovered" or "conquered" a territory by oppressing another existing civilization

'Colonials' means colonizer that is a person or a state that subjugates, oppresses, exploits peoples and land which it conquers. The word 'colonials' has racist imperialist, and nationalist connotations.

racist

People who lived in a colony.

The individuals that resided in British North America before the Revolutionary War.

Residents of a colony

I understand the term to mean colonizer(s). People that have infiltrated into already established societies, stolen land, and stripped people of their identities for their own benefits.

As the moniker for George Washington University, the Colonials moniker refers to the colonists of United States history, i.e. those from England. By rallying behind this moniker, we are rallying behind an (at best antiquated) extremely racist European notion that appropriation of land belonging to non-Caucasian peoples is justified by their unfamiliar race and unfamiliar religion. This is an emblem that represents a very narrow Euro-centric view that the intellectual community is rejecting. It is a terrible emblem to represent the kind of inclusion and tolerance we want to embody as a university.

Colonial means someone who lives in a colony however when I think about what a colonial is I think of it in terms of colonialism which is by definition a country seeking to extend its authority of territories, to have economic dominance, imposing religion, language and other cultural practices on others and In this case we know that this directly effected indigenous people in America. These terms are synonymous no matter what context.

I understand that the colonials is simply a mascot meant to represent GW. However, it white washes our history. Colonization is a really bad practice. It is repressive and can oftentimes be genocidal. In fact, the colonials in America partook in some of those practice so I don't think that is really narrative that GW wants to associate with itself.

Early European settler in America

The people who fought for the independence of our country, led by George Washington himself

Famine, Genocide, Rape, Murder, Slavery, Injustice: That's what I think of when I hear the term "Colonial." Colonialism was, and still remains, a sick and twisted regime. It also makes no sense to call us colonials, when the army that fought for independence was the Continental Army. Might I suggest alternative mascot names -"Continentials" or "Presidents"- which stay historically accurate but also are a lot more respectful to the billions of people that have been negatively impacted by colonialism and imperialism.

People living in America during the Colonial period before the Revolutionary War.

I think that while 'colonials' is more of a descriptive term for the generation of Americans at the time, the connection to the word colonization hurts more people than it would by changing the name

person who lived in a colony

Imperialism and White Supremacy

synonymous with colonizers

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

It has several meanings, but I typically think of the GW moniker as referring to the people who created and lived in the original 13 US colonies from Britain, taking that land over from the indigenous people who lived here originally

People colonizing a new country

Simply: the colonists who settled first in the New World.

The Continental Army/patriot rebels

Colonialism means the effort by countries to extend their authority over other countries. Colonials, to me, means the people that subjugate other nations to their tyrannical rule.

Colonizer, occupier. In the US context, also serious connotations of genocide.

People who live in a colony - e.g. colonialism, the British colonies

People who colonize

When I think of colonials, I think of my team and school spirit. I think of everyone coming together as one. That is what the word "colonials" means to me.

pioneers, heroes who founded and established the USA, revolutionaries

A European settler living in the Colonies of UK occupied North America, the original 13 colonies that initially formed the United States

Akin to colonists or colonial architecture.

A person of the American colonies

People alive during the colonial era

Colonials is the plural for of colonial. Colonial, used as a noun in this case, stands for someone who is a member or inhabitant of a colony. In order for colonials to exist there must be some form of colonization taking place. Colonization is the process by which one country attempts to control and extend its authority over other peoples or territory. It is often done for economic exploitation and the colonizing nation often subverts or destroys the native cultures values and systems of government. Colonization is driven by greed and imperialism, benefiting directly from the slave trade and economic exploitation. It often results in xenophobic and racist characterizations of some "other" that must be tamed, cultured, and civilized.

Colonizers stealing native land

In my experience, the term colonial refers to, mostly European, peoples who imposed their culture on the foreign lands they "discovered" and settled in through the genocide and enslavement of the indigenous populations. This term will always be connected to a history of violence and cultural imperialism.

colonizer

An image of a revolutionary and someone who sticks to their belief.

I understand that GW tries to mean early explorers into America, but it also comes along with the negative connotation with colonialism and exploitation of native citizens of the ground, that is including Africans, African Americans, and Native Americans

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Colonials are the best damn people! We stood up to oppression, tyranny, and fought for independence and a better way of life!!

reminds me of colonizers and its negative connotation

It is our nickname, we should not change it.

Mascot

I understand it as referring to American colonists before the War of Independence.

Colonials are people who emigrated to North America, actively pushed out the native community already based there, and established their own non-inclusive community. Colonials took part in the disgraced slave trade.

Yes

it refers to the word "colonizer" and the actions inflicted on the individuals of that land.

Synonymous with "originals," "originators" - white, male

people motivated by imperialism to produce capital on land which is not theirs; subjugators of native peoples.

Colonials is a term with a negative connotation. To colonize is to uproot a region and seize political control. It is associated with the mass murder of Native Americans in the context in which it is used with the George Washington name.

Colonizers

The people who colonized and settled lands in a new place, usually European and often violent and having other negative aspects.

When spelled with a capital "C", I understand it to be a term the British used to describe the settlers of what would one day become the USA. George Washington was the General of the Continental Army, therefore, he led the "Colonials" into battle to gain America's independence from Britain.

Soldiers in the American Revolutionary War

Refers to those who inhabited the 13 colonies and opposed British tyranny during the American Revolution. They stood for liberty, justice, and freedom.

People who live in colonies that are ruled over by an oppressive government

Colonialization and racism, bad history

It is a reference to the inhabitants of British North America before the American Revolution.

reference to the colonial settlers from western europe that founded the country in 1776

Colonial's refers to the people who established a new colony in America, first under British control, and then fought for freedom from British rule.

colonist, participant in colonialism

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

the colonists that founded our nation, but I understand how it could be offensive

I understand "colonials" to be an outdated--and also fairly historically inaccurate term because it was not used by colonists themselves. I believe GW seeks to use the moniker to convey its relationship to the Founding Fathers' founding of this nation, but its effectiveness at connecting the school is undermined by a perception that the moniker supports imperialism, colonialism, slavery, and bigotry. Additionally, I feel that more students identify with symbols such as the hippo rather than the "colonials" moniker.

Leaders of the new country of America such as George Washington the founder of the nation

I recognize that the intention of the "Colonials" mascot is to refer to the British settlers in the 13 North American colonies that would eventually rebel against the British crown and create America. However, the reality is that colonialism, in all forms both historical and present, is an incredibly problematic and harmful practice and ideology. Cheering on the "Colonials" entails condoning if not glorifying the harms of colonialism, which is inconsistent with the values of GWU as well as the personal morals of myself and my peers.

I first think of GW, but then I am also reminded of colonists and the horrible actions they committed.

Colonial definitely has a negative connotation considering America's history...

An identifying term for the people who settled the East Coast. More broadly, those who settle and claim land they are not indigenous to, creating the displacement of indigenous peoples. I associate the word "colonial" with the words "imperial/imperialist."

By definition, a colonial an inhabitant of a colony. I understand the challenge with the word is that a colony usually refers to the colonization of another land in a manner that endangers or destroys the native inhabitants way of life.

White men who established farms and towns during the 17th and 18th centuries

I understand it is supposed to represent the original 13 colonies that George Washington lead in the revolutionary war. However, in a modern context it represents a history of colonialism that has fueled racism, white supremacy, and xenophobia even to this day.

The early settlers of North America who later founded our country.

Colonizers or people that murdered and raped indigenous Americans.

Those who were part of the early colonies in America.

Someone who colonizes people. Which is bad and obviously something we should want to distance ourselves from given our track record of being insensitive to issues regarding class and race.

People who arrived at a new destination to extend their land of origin overseas.

A reference to the ideals of the founding fathers

Men and women who lived in the 13 British colonies which became the original 13 states of the US.

A group of people who laid the ground work for the founding of the United States.

colonizers steamroll/oppress indigenous groups and steal land/culture

Colonials was the monicker given to American revolutionaries to the British rule in the 18th century, specifically colonial soldiers who fought in the Revolutionary War.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

to me it means a group of people that have ownership of an area of land, and it pertains to the beginning of the United States

a native or inhabitant of a colony, BUT colonialism is the policy or practice of acquiring full or partial political control over another country, occupying it with settlers, and exploiting it economically. I MEAN HELLO???? NOT GOOD, SHOULD NOT BE THE MASCOT!!!!

Members of a colony....If you think colony means "bad" or "good," you have a wildly simplistic thought process.

someone who "conquered" another's land

Colonials refers to the European settlers who came to America and eventually founded the United States. However, in doing so the displaced (or outright killed) the native people's who had called this land home for untold centuries. As such, the term "Colonials" invokes great pride in some, and resentment in others.

Yes

Colonizer and representative of imperialism.

I associate this term with British colonisers, and have a negative perception of it.

Yes

Colonials were the members of society that lived in colonial America. George Washington was a Colonial in this way, as were the rest of the founding fathers.

a person who lives or lived in a colony

I understand the intention to represent the colonial era of George Washington, but colonials were imperialists who committed genocide.

Early U.S. settlers

It refers to colonists during the Revolutionary War.

Yes

Colonizers, manifest-destiny

I understand that obviously signals back to the Colonial Era of which our namesake George Washington was a part. But it cannot be ignored that it is inherently linked to European colonialism, which is deeply problematic for world history and, it should be noted, was something Washington and others actively fought against.

It's our mascot and someone who worked towards bringing freedom to America.

Akin to colonist/colonizers.

It's a term to describe the settlers who came to America on behalf of the British Crown, which often meant taking land from other Native Americans.

I have interpreted the term colonial as a person that was involved in the colonization of a region, and in this case I believe the colonial term refers to the founding fathers and members of the 13 colonies.



What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Colonists, taking over land that is not yours. Conquering. Conquering innocent people. Stealing. Understanding my culture and my ancestry, my ancestors in the Philippines and my friends and family ancestors back home in Hawai'i - all had to deal with colonist mentality from ancient Filipino times to ancient Hawai'iian times. One example is how the Spanish conquistadors conquered the Filipinos for over 400 years, and there were Filipinos who were enslaved by these colonists. Their names were taken away and changed to Spanish names. A lot of history and culture was erased due to Spanish rule. A forced conformity to the Spanish rule made Filipino people forget about their true culture of being a Filipino. Also, Hawai'i was overthrown illegally, by the United States who illegally took land from Queen Liliuokalani through illegal annexation. In other words, threats were made to the Queen and to representatives of Hawai'i during that time to have Hawai'i be turned to Statehood, all because of monetary gain and businesses that were developed by foreigners in Hawai'i due to greed of a fertile land.

Colonial references the colonists of America. In our current popular discourse, this has been seen as positive. However people are coming to understand the "colonial" as what it is -- colonization of the Americas that was rooted in indigenous genocide and slavery. These are not heroes or anything to celebrate or represent a student body.

Callous, oblivious imperialists. Tourists and oppressors.

People who go somewhere from a country and took land from native people to create a colony.

The term Colonials is inherently associated with the invasion of native lands and the subsequent mass execution of those native peoples, as well as the entire bloodied history of the building of this country. It is distasteful and insensitive to those whose ancestors have suffered as a result of the existence of Colonials

I understand the term colonial to refer to a person who has migrated to a new area to settle there. The individuals who founded the United States of America were colonials. While they made many mistakes along the way, they created a nation based on principles of freedom and opportunity for all. I believe we're still working toward this today but I'm grateful for the groundwork they laid.

George Washington and all the people who came to found the US

I view the term as a nod to those who served under General George Washington's Continental Army during the Revolutionary War and believe it should be kept as such, as we would not have a country today without them.

White colonizers that took the land from Native Americans and enslaved them and later African Americans.

A reference to GW students and its mascot

Those who conquered for white/European domination. Lands, the sources of identity, stolen.

Colonials are the soldiers who fought during the American Revolution. But the term also denotes 'colony' as in the forceful take over of native lands.

Founders of America

I associate the word "colonials" with historical colonization

Those who colonize and control countries outside of their own

I associate the moniker with America's dark history of colonialism. Conquering and pillaging other nations and groups.

Individuals who founded our country and our institutions.

Colonials refers to the people who colonized a land that was not theirs. As for why it is the chosen mascot, I do not know the specifics.

I LOVE BEING A COLONIAL

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Someone from colonial times

A special name representing GW and its unique location in D.C.

Inhabitants of a certain colony.

Oppression, Violence, People who support colonialism and think that it is a good thing, white supremacy

Someone who fought in George Washington's army.

A member of a colony

The United States was founded by former-colonists.

Individuals who colonize

I have recently more strongly acknowledged the negative definition of "colonials" being rooted in colonization and the colonization of indigenous peoples, which I do not think our school should represent even with the patriotic intentions behind the mascot

Someone who colonizes.

American settlers who built a society and enacted laws and agreements to start a government.

People who settled in America from Europe at the detriment of native americans

settlers of the united states, good and bad aspects

Colonizers

In the context that the university is named after George Washington, the term "Colonials" brings to mind the people who lived in the original American colonies, and I understand that was the intended meaning when it was chosen as the school's moniker. However, the greater historical context of the impacts of colonization both in the Americas and around the world, the term "colonials" describes the people who colonized perpetrated this colonization and the horrible acts that entailed.

Racist colonizers

Members of a group that move into a new space, likely because of economic or religious motivations, who then disrupt local culture, mores, etc. either intentionally or unintentionally in the interest of their own benefit.

Colonizers/colonization.

our mascot

The first people to come from Europe to North America

Someone who lives in a colony

To me: Early settlers in a new territory belonging to a small colony that has not established a level of stability, safety, infrastructure and/or resources that larger more established inhabited areas have achieved. I understand there are various definitions, including negative, that have recently gained popularity.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

It is meant to refer to the Colonial Army from the Revolution. However, the term can also be understood to refer to colonizers.

a native or inhabitant of a colony.

Colonials refers to the English settlers in American history who settled on the eastern American coast.

It means a person who was a colonist, mostly referring to the American colonies that predated our modern government.

Colonialism - the exploitation of indigenous people and their land

The inhabitant of colony

It refers to the population of the American colonies at the time of the revolution

imperialist white people forcibly taking over land that doesn't belong to them.

Yes

When I hear colonial outside of the context of GW, I think very negatively. I think of colonizers entering and invading communities, committing genocide, and claiming indigenous heritage. I think of everything I was taught in school about the long term effects of colonialism: destruction of whole populations. In the context of GW, I'm a senior and I've never felt a connection to the mascot Colonials. It's cringey to use because most GW students are not comfortable with colonial legacies.

Early American Settlers

People who are residents of a "colony", or territory under the direct control of a larger state

The word colonials means someone engaged in the act of colonialism, which is inherently exploitative.

It's a reference to the European colonial settlers, especially those who founded the American colonies.

People during pre-revolution/continental army members

To me, colonials represents american history. people came to this country and did horrible things, yes, but not every person in the original 13 colonies was a murderer or a rapist. Colonials cover them too.

The colonials were the people that came to colonize the United States. The idea of colonialism is the idea that people take over or conquer other people or areas in the name of their country.

Colonials refers to building/managing of a colony or colonization. It also refers to the founders of the U.S., specifically George Washington. The first definition is inherently exclusive because of the violence and inequality perpetrated by colonization. The second definition has a negative connotation because George Washington owned slaves. I would not like my university mascot to represent a group/man who have committed acts of violence and injustice. This does not match with what GW or its students stand for.

The term "Colonials" references an American nostalgia dream about the rebellious role of White men. Left out of this fantasy, is the subjugation of women and people of color, and the aggression and genocide and violence against the tribal people. inhabiting the "new world."

White men who violently seized America from Native Americans (indigenous people) to pursue their own interests, firstly on behalf of England, and then on behalf of themselves.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

yeah, someone who colonizes land and pushes out the native people

Early Americans in the first colonies

People who settled and founded America

An individual during the time of the revolutionary war who fought for freedom and helped create the United States become an independent country

People living in a colony, under the typically oppressive rule of a foreign colonial power. It brings to mind everything associated with colonialism, including its racist and exploitative nature.

person who lived during Colonial times

When I think of Colonials I think of the early colonizers to the Americas, which does not have a necessarily positive history, at least in terms of the relationship of the word to Native peoples.

A symbol of wrongful conquistadorism, taking land from natives in violent, unjustified manners for own interest rather than fairness

The term Colonials refers to the soldiers of the Continental Army under George Washington during the Revolutionary War for the United States of America.

An honorable and awesome celebration of our identity as THE George Washington University.

Oppressor, conqueror

Something that is not offensive.

People who go to someone else's land to steal their resources and murder their peoples.

Colonists of the British Empire who settled and stole land in what's now the US

It's got a lot of history tied up in the way white people oppressed and enslaved indigenous people to exploit the people and their resources. For an international school, reminding some applicants of their countries colonial history may turn them away. Getting rid of it seems like a marketing no-brainer.

That the country was a British colony before George Washington helped lead the United States to independence. Is this not taught in GWU history classes?

Colonizer

Founding fathers and American settlers--people who built the country.

The term is an ode to an era, a symbolic representation of patriotism & the AMERICAN experience & foundation. With that ode comes the neglect of a set of people. The British were beat the war was won but whom exactly was set free. Misunderstanding & disregard of that fact is tone deaf & irresponsible on the part of an institution of this caliber & influence. This country has a torrid past but only acknowledges the pretty parts. As an influential institution I'd like to see the example set that with the good comes the ugly & indifferent & by accepting one aspect you accept all.

People who take land from indigenous people

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

A tribute to the founders of America, those people who fled the the monarchies and authoritarian governments of Europe to found a country based upon the principles of Liberty and Freedom for All.

What George Washington was

"Colonials" are a nod to the American revolutionaries that laid the foundation of our country.

Forced removal of indigenous peoples.

Oppression of native people

yes

a connection to colonialism. a colonizer.

Occupiers.

Someone who colonized an area

I consider the term colonials to be the highest form of disrespect- especially at a university I have paid tens of thousands of tuition dollars to attend. This single aspect of GW has enabled certain professors to treat me and other students with microaggressive disdain and, at times, direct racism. It has torn apart the bonds among students of color and it disgusts me to even have to advocate for the removal of the term. As a child of colonization and having survived the horrors of British oppression, it is absolutely critical that GW not only change this moniker but provide GW students of color with compensatory funding and resources/ award us with legal damages and tuition refunds for having to serve a university that dared to re-enslave and re-colonize us.

People who take what isn't there's.

the origin of the nation... brave....unafraid of the New World...seeking a better life

Colonials to me means: people who emigrated to establish a colony of an old country, who then established new, imperfect ideals that became the foundation for a different kind of new country, a republic. Colonial to me has the historic weight of change, which in hindsight also includes some aspects broadly accepted a negative connotations today (racial bias and all manner of -isms). It's also a klugy& nerdy/pedantic representation for modern imaging esp for sports & social affiliation. And yet - I still like it. I think we cannot sweep the negative legacies of our country under the carpet by changing the name, but we are better served accepting & exploring the dualities. Also: I think there's far more association with masculine colonialism and little attention to female roles.

Represents colonialism in the United States. Not exactly the best connotation in today's United States

A pre-revolutionary American

Early European Colonists to North America

People who overthrew an oppressive government and created a new country.

It is a term to describe those who force their rule over a, foreign to them, land and its people without those people's consent.

To me "Colonial" primarily means "settler in a colony" which is neutral and factual. To me it is linked to "Colonialism," which is both a factual term as well as a period/system broadly associated with the economic exploitation and/or deliberate harm of native populations primarily in the Americas, Africa, and Asia.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Just change the name to the Hippos. It's honestly not a bad mascot and nobody can get mad at Hippos. Some of our clubs even use that mascot already.

Colonists, pertaining to colonies and governing influence over a dependent country or people as defined by the dictionary is what I think of. Especially studying colonialism and imperialism in most of my classes at GW it has a negative connotation in my mind.

Patriots

People native to a place/country, those who founded the US

While I understand the meaning of Colonials in the context of American independence with the Colonial Army versus the British, I also understand "Colonial" in the lens of colonialism and the oppression of communities of color at the hands of violent imperialists.

Those who fought for America's freedom against oppression

I understand Colonials to refer to the valiant American Colonists who fought against the British in the American Revolution and led us to have a free, republican society today. It engenders thoughts of 18th century America and the men and women who broke ties with their identity as English citizens to stand up for themselves and create a new form of government, which would for two centuries serve as a light of freedom for many oppressed peoples around the world.

The army that conquers others, then take their hands to make them better.

inhabitant of a colony. Idea of authority and power over another population, notably minorities.

The Colonials were the British colonial subjects of the American colonies. They rebelled against British-rule and obtained independence.

A term for the groups of immigrants, largely Europeans, who settled in the Americas, essentially taking Native lands and establishing communities there.

The term brings up connotations of an oppressed people creating a new nation based on freedom of speech, religion, press, petition, and assembly. The colonials' dream allowed the entire United States to grow into what it is now, a beacon of diversity, success, strength, and the hope of a better world.

Colonizers, offensive and insensitive is the fact that it is 2020 and this has not been changed.

Racism and bad history

Imperialists who murder and enslave indigenous people and steal their land.

An homage to George Washington and the founding fathers who first began to colonize our country.

The brave men and women who fought for our freedom.

I believe it refers to the historical memory of the US being comprised of colonists during the nation's Revolutionary era. In other words, I think it refers to the fact that at one point in time we were colonists in the British Empire. I think it evokes a reminder that America was also founded during the colonial period (i.e. 17-18th century)

Relation to George Washington and the longevity of the university

A person living in a colony

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Someone who set up and built a country from nothing.

People who took land that wasn't theirs and hurt a lot of people in the process.

Intruders, oppressors, ignorance

Colonial is a term that is of relation to the original 13 colonies. I do not believe that the colonial as a mascot represents anything violent or representative of genocidal acts.

Reference to the founders of this nation and their predecessors of European descent who colonized native lands.

Specifically for our school it represents the history of the founders of our nation.

European settlers who colonized North America

A reference to the British colonials living in the 13 colonies prior to the Declaration of Independence

Refers to the colonial army that George Washington led against the British crown

It represents the stains of prejudice and supremacy in America. It casts a shadow on the true identity of Washington DC: black American culture and slavery. GW brands DC in the white federal worker, but it should honor the legacy of black Americans in DC. This moniker completely submisses the true founders of DC.

The name of the athletic team as driven from the historical roots of this place.

Colonials are a group of colonizers. A colonizer is someone who stole the land and wreaked havoc on Black and Indigenous people. This phenomenon occurs not only here in the US but worldwide. It's embarrassing to call yourself a colonial.

First persons to settle in the US who came from Europe.

It is a reference to settlers who lived during the British colonial period of what is now known as the United States. Even if not meant in this way, the term tends to celebrate such settlers and glorifies that violent period in history.

It is weird. It refers to an era in American history.

I understand that there can be negative connotations with the term "Colonials" but I see it in a more positive way in that we are pioneers and our school is on such historic land.

It represents the founders of the US

Those who actively participate in colonialism -- generally a very negative connotation for me. I understand intent may have been to reference those who lived in the original American colonies during GW's time but there is so much horrible history there that intent doesn't matter. The association is overwhelmingly negative.

Colonials raped/pillaged various regions of the world in the name of trade and commerce.

An outdated moniker not reflective of current times

I know it has to directly do with the term "colonizer", which historically has insanely disgusting and negative connotations with Western / European imperialism as well as the destruction of many non-Western nations / continents.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

My immediate thought is racist white people. People who steal land from others and make it their own, exploitation and suppression.

English colonizers who illegitimately took the land from indigenous peoples and committed genocide against them.

American settlers and patriots who lived here during the Colonial period.

The personification of early Americans.

Early Americans, but it means people who colonize

In the GW context, I understand Colonials as the rebels who revolted against the British Monarchy during the American Revolutionary War. Outside of this context, colonials would reference those who colonized countries, which included the oppression of natives.

people who took advantage of other people for their own benefits, while subjecting them to discrimination and eradicating them

I understand the term "colonials" to be referencing the founders of our country who were a part of the British colony. However, associating ourselves with colonialism in a positive way is wildly problematic.

A colonialist is someone who favors establishing colonies, which is the process of conquering the existing population through subjugation, oppression, and genocide.

citizens of a colony

A vague expression of alignment with GW that is contentious because it also has reference to the US' horrid treatment of black peoples and indigenous peoples.

"Colonials" is a reference to the Continental Army levied by Congress to fight the British. They are referred to as "Colonials" because the soldiers lived in the "colonies," the new settlements in North America.

A term honoring George Washington for being an original colonist in the US and leading the charge to making the US a free country.

The white settlers who came to America, brutalized the native population into submission, and began the transatlantic slave trade.

This term refers to someone who lived in the time that colonies were formed around the globe. Specifically, I tend to think of the original colonies in the U.S.

Colonials in reference to the GW mascot represents the strength and resistance of a nation at a time when colonialism grew strong. As George Washington and thousands of others, they were historically, whether you like it or not, colonials fighting a kingdom. As we are a university on the sports "battlefield" fighting for victory.

Americans who lived during the colonial era of the United States in the 13 colonies

Rapists, pillagers, overlords, British people, disease spreaders etc.

A name given to dominating powers (most notably western powers) that invaded and subjugated people, land, and states.

Can refer to the "colonial army" but can also be understood as the force of western colonization on indigenous people around the world.

People who "found" land that was mostly already inhabited and subjugated indigenous people's to forced labor, murder, rape, etc.



What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Colonials represents those first here in the North America from England that established the thirteen original colonies. While understandably it can represent the detrimental and horrifying effects colonialism has on indigenous people, it is not what I associate with it most.

A COLONIAL is a "native or inhabitant of a colony," NOT a COLONIZER who is "a person who settles among and establishes political control over the indigenous people of an area." The two are completely different and are being misconstrued by many in the student body.

A term in reference to groups that may colonize or take over a part of land, or perhaps a patriotic term.

The settler inhabitant of a colony on conquered land

A celebration of the colonial era/imperialist practices

It comes across as an outdated euphemism referring to Europeans taking land and resources from Native Americans in furtherance of an exploitative economic system. It also reminds me every time I hear it that DC residents pay a significant amount of federal income taxes but still have no congressional representation.

Colonists that murdered indigenous people out of white supremacist ideals

Historically, colonials refers to those involved with colonization. Colonizers do not encapsulate the views of GW, like open-mindedness & acceptance. Colonizers abused, raped, killed, and stole from indigenous groups. These practices still affect our world today and should not be glorified.

People who came to colonize America

Primarily referencing the colonists that would eventually become the first citizens of the United States.

The first settlers to North America (mostly from Britain, France, the Netherlands, Sweden, etc.)

Colonization!!!

European men who colonize and exploit land.

It refers to the British people who lived in the 13 colonies in present-day U.S., taking away land from the indigenous people of the area.

In the most literal sense it's the people who lived in the American colonies—but those people can't be separated from the racism, particularly against Black and Indigenous people, that allowed them to survive in America. "Colonials" only represents white people, and it's an attack on POC.

In my mind, the term "Colonials" refers to the European settlers in the new world in what is now the United States. In the context of the 13 Colonies, Colonials were citizens of Great Britain. I am in favor of changing the campus moniker because I do not believe that the term "Colonials" adequately represents the spirit of the founding fathers, in fact I believe that individuals such as George Washington would describe themselves as "Americans" or "Patriots" rather than British "Colonials".

Thirteen colonies and America's founding...obviously

GW's history and US history

I think colonial's represents White Supremacy and someone who colonized native land.

It refers to colonization and colonizers who did horrible and inhumane acts against the Indigenous people of their native lands. Colonials do not encapsulate the views of GW students, including myself, about inclusion and acceptance.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

I think of "colonials" as equaling colonization, as in the stealing of indigenous land.

Colonial indicates colonization - a term with decidedly negative connotations and corresponds to major human rights violations and genocides all across the globe

No, I've been confused by the creepy George mascot for 4 years (not the greatest marketing for a university)

Colonials is in reference to those who were oppressed, and rose up to defeat an empire in England in the American Revolution. This entire conversation seems ridiculous. It is a strong name and something to be celebrated.

people of the american colonies before the revolution

British citizens who seeked to profit off the native land while proclaiming native soil as their own god-given property

"Colonials" means those who fight for their rights and freedoms from suppressive powers (England) and come together at the most critical moments to support and defend the most important American freedoms, including freedom of speech (including in education - especially in education), assembly and religion.

Just a reference to the people who lived as colonists during pre-Revolutionary America.

The people that settled this country

A reference to Americans being colonists, in theory, but also a positive uplifting of that term that is not necessary in a time when colonialism has so damaged the world.

Someone who lives in a colony, most commonly referenced in taking land from native populations globally

It means the GW student body

An oppressive term referring to the time of colonialism.

Someone who has entered land or territory that is not theirs and claimed it usually for a crown or government regardless of the people or peoples who already have established living there.

People who settled North America and subsequently fought for Independence.

A colonizer.

I understand that it may originally/normally be interpreted as someone who lives in a Colony. I do not favor this interpretation as implied upon the university, and even as it stands it is a poor mascot and not fun.

Colonialism is a violent ideology that invades others' land. GW should change it to something else like the hippos!

Imperialists and outsiders who take property without regard of indigenous people's rights.

The colonists who won independence from Great Britain. In other words, the founding/revolutionary generation of George Washington.

It refers to the colonial period (i.e., the 13 colonies), when George Washington lived. The colonies are referred to as such because they were not united under a centralized government. It has nothing to do with oppression.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

its the name of sports teams at gw

Someone who colonized other land/peoples George Washington was not a colonial

The google search definition means "someone inhabiting a colony," which, if that was the intended definition, is not inherently racist, but the term is so close to "colonizer" that confusion over the definition regarding implied racism is understandable. Either way, I think we could do better.

A reference to White British colonists who were responsible for the genocide of Native Americans. It should not be used to generate feelings of spirit and pride.

I understand it to mean the first settlers in the US that created the colonies

Colonizers taking land and resources from a colonized land.

Early settler of the United States, particularly from the view of British citizens both before and during the revolutionary period.

Historically, a "colonial" is someone from an imperialistic European country who claimed land that was already inhabited by an indigenous population, resulting in mass genocide.

People who are living in a colony?

Those who founded our country from the 13 colonies.

Colonials are people who took land from the indigenous people of North America.

living in a colony

It refers to the citizens in the thirteen colonies under British rule

Founding father

Colonials refers to American colonials, I.e. George Washington. This controversy is ludicrous. The American "colonials" were one of the only forces to successfully fight against the British colonizers— I.e . What the controversy is over. It is backward to be outraged at this context of the word.

I believe it was meant to refer to the people who were colonists of Britain, but then we colonized other places and oppressed these other colonists.

Racist white settler who lead the genocide and enslavement of Black and Native people

It's part of our history that cannot and should not be erased. Our country would not be what it is today without the colonials.

The early American colonies who displaces thousands of indigenous people.

Colonizers- people who colonize other cultures

The civilians (but not necessarily the government) of the pre-Revolutionary and early republican period of United States history.

Oppressive men from the 17th century who killed people

Yes

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

As relating to a group of people who conquer and take land and culture from an existing group of people

People that lived and profited on stolen or unlawfully claimed land.

I think the term refers back to a time of colonialism perpetrated by the west on less developed nations, specifically on the African continent. Using it as our school moniker is celebrating that time in our history, something I believe is a mistake.

A reference to the founding of the country as the union of 13 former british colonies

Talking about the American colonists who were led by George Washington

It signifies people who stole and took over the land of others, killing native peoples in the process

Colonization of America by White, Christians primarily of English descent and the resulting birth of America that also involved the genocide of indigenous peoples and enslavement of African peoples.

I understand the term colonials to have a double meaning of sorts. To those who belong to populations which have historically colonized other lands it is a word which describes the people who actually established colonial governments in lands they were not born in. To those who belong to formerly and currently colonized populations it describes the people who forcibly changed their lives and culture, often bringing violence and disease to their lands.

colonizers—pretty bad connotation in my opinion

The people of the 13 colonies, during George Washington's time

A value-neutral term referring to the thirteen colonies that declared independence from Britain.

Colonizer, settlers during colonization (This is what first comes to mind)

A native inhabitant.

Are country started as a group of colonies that bonded together to form the greatest country in the history of the world. Yes, the country has made mistakes and has not always lived up to its own standards but name a country that has been perfect. Every country on every continent has been misguided at one point. But in 1776-86 the country formed a constitution that the colonies agreed upon to make the freest country on earth.

People from an empire that are sent to captured foreign lands to create colonies to benefit the empire.

Individuals who exploit + exert power over weaker people and areas; key players in colonialism

Alludes to white colonialism and the idea of the white savior.

I view the term Colonials to mean people that take over an area in terms of exploration and expansion, often at the maltreatment and abuse of indigenous peoples and their rights.

Taking other people's land

Reason our country exists

A nod to our forefathers, the brave men and women who sailed across the Atlantic to the New World and settled the lands from sea to shining sea in the name of freedom, progress, and glory.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

colonizers

racism, colonialism, outdated, inappropriate, slavery

colonials to me means those who came to establish the colonies and the beginning of the United States

"Colonials" refers to people who inhabited colonies.

Referring to founding fathers/the formation of the United States, I don't really see it connected to 'colonialism.'

While it's clear to me that colonial is meant to mean a person living in colonial America in the context of GWU, there is also a harkening back to the days of empire and all the baggage that comes with that historical process.

Birth of a new nation

A white, European individual who views people of color as a means to end—to achieve profit, land, personal gain, and absolute power. A colonial is someone who has enslaved, murdered, raped, and pillaged indigenous communities and communities of color. Colonials in a broad sense have "conquered" nations and destroyed the unique fabric of the people of those nations—while subduing and subjugating them.

Colonists, people who came from England to form a colony in America

Inhabitant of colonial America

Someone who takes over land and commits genocide on its people.

It is an archaic term used to describe people who colonize land that belongs to others.

People who settle on land considered to be or claimed as the colony of a particular nation.

The name for the Europeans who (in this context) came to the US and took over the land of Native American communities in order to set up colonies in the "New World". They often did so violently and brought with them diseases that wiped out huge populations of Native Americans. Colonials can also refer to colonizers in other places but seeing as our school is all about George Washington, I think it's specifically referring to the US context.

A revolutionary fighting against the unjust & tyrannical English monarchy. George Washington himself was a Colonial.

Those that take over land and colonize it, just because they can or want to.

A colonial is someone who represents both a forceful and violent foreign occupying presence and is a tool used by the "mother" state to enhance the "mother" state's wealth, usually with natural resources, via mercantilist economic policy. George Washington is celebrated as an American revolutionary, not as a British colonial figure. While the term may have originally referred merely to American historical figures and life in the "colonial period," the term now is more closely associated with the global historical practice of colonialism.

"Colonial" is representative of the European-led genocide against Indigenous peoples. I think that if we are to view history through a critical lens, we need to acknowledge what should and should not be glorified.

Someone who colonizes a country or people

I understand the background to the word colonials to honor George Washington. I also take the meaning to refer to a neighborhood individual, someone part of the community then and now. Today, I take the word colonial to reference a student or an alumni, or even faculty.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Stuffy old European white men who colonized new territories and massacred indigenous peoples by voluntary and involuntary means

Meant for the people who came to United States and established this country

I know that "colonials" is meant to invoke the era of the founding fathers and thus the university's namesake, however the violent history of colonialism far outweighs this intended purpose.

A group of people who conquer another place for economic gain, typically via exploitation of the colonized people.

Soldiers and patriots

The British who came to the land of America to start new colonies. "Colonials" is a neutral term that accurately describes what these men and women were. "Colonizers," for example, is a negative term that highlights their subjugation of Native Americans.

People who colonize (such as the colonization of the U.S.)

colonizer

A harmless school mascot that people are being too sensitive about. Coming from a person who's homeland was colonized for King and Country.

Colonials seek to invade and steal land that is not their own and viciously remove (through genocide, ethnic cleansing, etc) natives. They want to assert authority, through white supremacy, economic dominance, etc, at the expense of natives. It hurt me when I walked 15 minutes from my GW dorm to the African American History Smithsonian and saw George Washington's dentures which were pulled from enslaved people's mouths and then having to walk back to George Washington University. These behaviors were allowed under the guise of "colonialism."

A racist moniker relating back to the idea of colonization and imperialism.

Someone in charge of someone else, dominating someone else, glorification of dominance, fraught history of relationship between Native Americans and Europeans on US territory. Identification with colonists who came to America and did not have inclusive ideology.

Pride. GW spirit. The origins of this great country.

Those who have established colonies.

Army rank bestowed as a the individual continues to grow professionally.

"Colonials" is the current mascot of our university, but it represents the history of white supremacy our current institutions (both at GW and more broadly) were built on.

To represent the founding fathers and the 13 colonies

A representation of the first generation of Americans who fought for their rights against the British empire.

A historical nod to our founding father George Washington

People who lived in the Colonies.

people who came to a place to take it over and claim it for themselves, displacing everything and everyone previously there committing genocide against native people and doing irreparable harm and damage to the natives

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

A person (historically, a white male) who feels it necessary to colonize another group of people (historically, non-white). Although the word also suggests the 13-original-colonies, these colonies were set up as a white supremacist patriarchy, something many of us at GWU no longer wish to advance or celebrate.

It's a homage to American colonists.

First white settlers

Our school's "mascot," reminiscent of the time period when George Washington was president (ie "colonial" america)

"Colonials" to me refers to a legacy of colonization in what is now the United States, where Indigenous people were murdered and Black people were enslaved. The moniker honors a history that shouldn't be honored, but instead be discussed critically.

The people who inhabited the thirteen colonies.

The White Colonizers who stole this land from Native American peoples and claimed it as their own after killing millions of Indigenous people.

I know what the name means - I just think if you have to explain it to everyone you meet just to prove that it isn't problematic - it's probably time for a change

I think you intend "Colonials" to refer to the Europeans who lived in the English colonies (like George Washington). However I don't think the term can be separated from the acts of colonizing in which they participated, including genocidal acts against indigenous populations and enslaving Africans.

Rape , genocide , pillaging, taking from native Americans and completely disrespectful to them

People from the Colonial era in US history, but in this era I think many people take it as "colonizers" as well, even though not all of the people from the colonial era colonized people.

I know colonial is associated with the colonization of America and brings out the horrible history of slavery and conquering lands from natives but I'm not sure I agree with associated our mascot to those things

Another term for white imperialists

Similar to that of the Patriots

colonists who stole the land of native peoples living here and committed genocide and other human rights abuses against them

Imperialism and Colonialism

The soldiers fighting for independence during the American Revolution, the colonial army.

Individuals who came to the American colonies in the 1700s And early 1800s

It is named to evoke the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, i.e., the Colonial Americans fighting against the British.

Term to refer to people who colonized another group. Can also refer to the people from the original 13 colonies.

A person who is a member of a colony, which is part of an area under control by another colonizing country. Thus making a colonial a participant in the act of colonization.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Imperialism and racialized resource extraction.

Colonials references the colonial aspect of America and that we were once colonies of Great Britain.

people who lived in colonies, related to colonization; unfortunately the moniker for GW, related to the 13 colonies/american revolution/etc

The term has certainly changed over time, the first Englishmen to settle in North America became the first Colonials, then the subsequent hundreds of years of slavery, genocide, etc became attributes of colonialism. Our university should not be associated with the name.

I understand the term colonials to mean the people of the United States that lived before its independence and who are not Native American. To me they mean the people that worked hard to build the foundation of this country and to gain independence from Britain. The colonials moniker embodies their spirit of hard work and independence.

I understand "Colonials" to be a reference to George Washington's Colonial army. It also evokes an image of the colonizers who came to America beginning in 1492 and brought disease, slavery, and genocide with them.

George Washington

Faculty

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

People from other countries who came to make colonies of that country here.

Those from the Colonial period of U.S. history.

the European-origin inhabitants of America at the time of George III

a reference to US history in relationship to the history of the University, those folks who colonized American lands

Yes

Evokes the 13 colonies that formed the United States following the Revolutionary War that ended British rule.

I understand that the point of the moniker is to reference George Washington and the fight for independence. But I'm also sympathetic to the students who feel that it is an offensive term today.

People who came to the US from Europe, stole land from indigenous peoples, and imported enslaved people to farm it.

People under colonial rule, and in the context of the U.S. history and the first president of this country (for whom the university is currently named), it's about being a subject to a monarch.

A historical reference to the American Revolution and its leader the venerable George Washington.

a term denoting systematic exploitation and oppression of non-white/European groups

A historical reminder to where we were before George Washington helped create our great nation. He was a Colonial for over 40 years of his life.

The people who came to America and started our country by establishing colonies.



What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Both the old-timey idea of nice people in tricornered hats and the reality of colonial settler violence.

To me, the term 'Colonials' represents the invasion, conquest, and mass killing of the Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island. Through post-colonial scholarship, I understand the term 'colonial' to signify Euro-western erasure of indigenous cultures, languages, and ideologies. Overall, the term 'colonials' represents the explanation of the current state of the country and the world—it is a fractured, polarized, and extractive world at the expense of human dignity and equity.

silly (possibly racist at worst, outmoded at best) and not very relevant cartoonish character I have never felt any allegiance to.

Associated with the founding fathers.

A group of people who came together to overcome obstacles.

original settlers of the North American continent

participants in colonialism

George Washington's original 13 colonies people.. rebels but slave owners

On its face, colonists, but I also can read themes of imperialism and nationalism from this moniker.

Members of or representing original colonists to America.

It's a reference to the white colonists who came to North America in the 1700s. I do see it as a racialized term.

colonists

It is a word attached appropriately to a special part of the history of the USA.

Colonials makes me think about colonization, which is how the US came to be.

The term comes from the Revolutionary army led by George Washington. It does not at all mean imperial. The opposed side, the British army might aptly be called the imperial army, attempting to turn the Americans into imperial subjects.

mascot for GW sports

Invaders, myth creators re: the founding of countries they conquered through force, thievery and acts of genocide or enslavement, murderers of culture, exploiters and White.

Colonials are people who used force and/or coercion to occupy and extract wealth from land where others had lived before them.

an historical reference to the inhabitants of the original colonies

European immigrants who dispossessed native inhabitants of their traditional tribal lands, generally through violence, superior technology and firepower, and, fueled by racist assumptions of European and Christian superiority, reshaped the Eastern seaboard (and the Americas) into political colonies of Europe's royalty, dispossessing Native peoples in North America and forcibly importing slaves from Africa to fuel a conquest-based economy.

It is a reference to George Washington as the leader of the American Colonists' rebellion against the tyrannical imperialist rule of the British Parliament.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Western Europeans who took over the Americas

An original member of the US colonies... aka colonizer.

Yes.

Revolutionary war era

European inhabitants of the 13 colonies. Excludes native americans.

A resident of the early American colonies? A soldier in a British colonial regiment? I really have no idea, except that it sounds old, like a stately, well hewn bureau made of maple or cherry.

It is a reference to the mindset and character of the main group of White British-connected society of the pre-revolutionary, colonial time in America. It is my impression and not derived by looking up the word in the dictionary.

Residents of the original 13 colonies

From the GW perspective it is a patriot during the colonial era in American history. From another perspective colonial is a derogatory term that indicates oppression and/or exploitation by a more powerful authority.

People who live in America under British rule

People of the colonies

relating to the colonies or colonial period in U.S. history

I am not familiar with the term

George Washington's original affiliation

I understand that GW's position in the past has been that "Colonials" is a reference to how the settlers in North America were subject to British colonial rule. From that perspective, the "Colonials" moniker could be understood as an ironic celebration of the settlers' ultimate victory against British colonial power. I have heard the argument made that, on this interpretation, the "Colonials" moniker is unobjectionable because it does not celebrate colonial power, but rather celebrates the victims of colonialism and their ultimate victory over their oppressors. However, this argument is unsatisfactory for two reasons. First, identifying the settlers in North America only as victims of colonial power (not as exercisers of colonial power) obscures the fact that they were also colonizers, and that their brand of settler colonialism displaced, oppressed, and killed Indigenous people. Given this, continued use of the moniker is an insult to Indigenous people (on whose land GW sits) and is an obstacle to properly recognizing (and compensating for) the wrongs done to them. Second, given the US's current geopolitical standing and its status as an imperial/neo-imperial power, the "Colonials" moniker is reasonably interpreted as a celebration of that power, regardless of whether that is what GW intends. Since we should condemn (and certainly not celebrate) colonial oppression at every opportunity, we should abandon the "Colonials" moniker.

A group of people that colonized

Colonizers or white colonial citizens. It's an exclusive term to me, "colonial" as opposed to "native".

In the GW context, the patriots who with George Washington helped to forge a new identity on the American continent that eventually helped create our country, which while not perfect, is able to strive for a more perfect union. The Colonials stood against the most powerful world empire at the time, won freedom and a path to making sure that we could have a government by and for the people.

white colonials

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

18th century American British colonists.

American's first soldiers for independence

I believe that Colonials refers to the original American "colonies" that were involved in the American Revolution.

I understand what it probably was intended to mean when it was coined way back when. But, as a scholar of colonialism and imperialism, I simply think that it doesn't reflect well on the university to have teams with this name.

imperial legacy: colonialism and coloniality

It's the name of the GW collegiate athletics team

A representation of colonialism.

The European peoples who populated the U.S. centuries ago

Meant to link to George Washington's leadership presumably, but to me it means white (only)settlers, including slave owners. Not an inclusive term or one that even many white people would feel comfortable being associated with.

A person living in a colony in the context of colonialism.

Refers to the history of the area and specifically the roots of the university's namesake, George Washington, who was originally a Colonial officer in the British Army.

Those that conquered people

Someone who has colonized another land and is living there as a colonizer.

For me, the term invokes and seems to celebrate colonization--esp. the colonization of native Americans. The British colonized large parts of the world and ruled BIPOC people as their colonial masters. Hence "colonials." This term to refer to GW members feels misguided. It reminds me of how the British once ruled my ancestors, and it does so without criticizing the violence of colonialism. It is shameful, and we need to change it. As a person of color, I do not identify with it. All of Britain has already become culturally cognizant of the shameful and violent legacies of colonialism; not sure why we in America have not caught up with that. We must reject the uncritical embrace and celebration of colonialism inherent in this term. Language matters.

The Americans at the time of George Washington

There is a sense that the term is outdated and representative of ethnic violence, genocide and racism due to the time of settling the 'colonies' in the U.S.

Settlers

It reminds me of white people landing in non-European lands and giving diseases to the local people. I would guess that it was originally chosen for GW because of the association with the American Revolutionary War and George himself.

I thought it referred to the people that settled in the 13 original colonies during the fight for independence.

Those who fought in or supported the American side in the American Revolution

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Early settlers

Officially colonizers but I interpret it to mean people who were around at the time George Washington was alive. His contemporaries.

The people responsible for obtaining American independence from England

A group of people who appropriate territories.

A reference to colonial period in the US (where the colonialists were also slave holders)

I assume it refers to pre-Revolutionary American colonists

soldier

a native or inhabitant of a colony.

time to revisit GW's history

I understand it to mean its primary dictionary definition: "a member or inhabitant of a colony" (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/colonial>). In this instance, the colony means England's "American" colonies in what would become the United States. The major problem with the use of the moniker in this context and as a nickname is it normalizes colonialism as a cutesy, "old-time" reference to Washington and, supposedly, the Continental Army when, in fact, colonialism, in the aforementioned context, was constituted in (and still signals and reproduces today) indigenous genocide/land theft and African slavery, with the concomitant development of white supremacy in the service of slavery- and, later, segregation-based capitalism. This is why the name has to go.

Architecture -- "colonials" are houses built in a certain way. Forgive me, I'm an English professor. Language is elastic. "Colonials" can mean many different things.

A term that has come to have serious negative historical implications despite the original intent of those who coined the nickname.

To me it means that a larger nation came into a geographic area and turned it into an extension of its empire.

Colonials refers to the residents of the 13 colonies as of the time of George Washington's leadership to victory in the Revolution.

I associate it with both "colonial times" and colonialism. I take it as an unfortunate and dated moniker that makes a vague gesture towards George Washington's time but which has come to signify racism, imperialism, and conquest as time has progressed.

settlers that came from England to establish colonies in the new world that became the US of A.

White male founding fathers and their class of similarly minded men.

Yes.

Reflecting the early history of the U.S. and how the U.S. grew from being a British colony to seeking independence in the American Revolutionary War.

In a US context, white European settlers (and their descendants), largely pre-1776

It draws connection between George Washington's service as commander of the Continental Army and the colonial status of British subjects in North America at the time of the Am Revolution.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Vis-a-vis GWU, I understand it as a term to refer to the people who settled in this country before its formation. It can easily be perceived to celebrate colonialism (whether intentional or not), which is less than ideal, in my opinion.

A group of individuals exerting control over land that belonged to an/other group(s) and over those people

As in the colonial army of George Washington, commander and chief of the continental army.

In the context of GW, it once was a quaint way to refer to the folks who rebelled against the British in 1776. In the larger context, it reflects a brutal and exploitive system imposed by Europeans on indigenous people's around the world. As a faculty member, and an alum, I am embarrassed by the name, and try never to use it.

That it emerges from an identification with George Washington and the 18th century.

The people that worked hard to make a living in a new land, and fought off British tyranny and established a set of just and egalitarian ideals for this country, even if they themselves did not live up to them fully.

for me the meaning calls up contradictory distinct images--one positive of the 13 original colonies and at the same time a broader more negative interpretation of one who colonizes by taking away freedoms and independence from others. So, we often forget that in defining the word by the seemingly more positive image of Colonials, a people escaping the British rule and establishing a new land was accomplished at the expense of the native residents of this country. (colonizer)

Europeans who settled in North America, displacing indigenous peoples and introducing the slave trade

I am a professor of political science that teaches about colonial history. For me, "colonials" immediately brings to mind "the people in charge of the colonial state." Terms like "colonial health center" or "colonial army" are a bit jarring, as these are terms for institutions of the colonial state -- not institutions to be celebrating. In the American context, it might be that some equate colonials with people like George Washington or those who were fighting against the British (maybe?). But in this case, how about "revolutionary" or something like that.

It harkens back to a historic and racist past in which White settlers colonized Native American lands and people. Moreover, it references a historic period in which Black people were enslaved and denied basic civil and human rights granted to White people. As such, it is a dreadful reminder of the country's racist past and desire to maintain that inequity in the present.

It has a negative connotation for many and as such should be changed

Not really.

George Washington was a general in the colonial army fighting for independence from Britain.

Embodies a "colonial" mentality that is out of step with current perspectives.

Individuals who have colonized America's land, thus partaking in theft and creating systemic disadvantages for indigenous and marginalized individuals.

A reference to the Colonial period

When I hear the term I think of colonial americans who stole lands from native americans.

A historical reference to the antagonists to the British "loyalists" during the American War of Independence, now a designation associated with non-Indigenous people who colonized the unceded lands of the Indigenous people in the United States, as well as--more broadly--all non-Indigenous people who have colonized Indigenous people internationally

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

At one point, it was likely a well intentioned effort to incorporate the legacy of George Washington's contributions to our country as a revolutionary leader, president, and founding father. I'm faculty, and I'm no radical SJW, but when I started at GW a few years ago, I was surprised that the term was still used. It's a ridiculous thing to be shouting at sporting events. "Let's go, Colonials!" "Let's go [colonists intending to subjugate native peoples]!" There are many alternatives to conform to the history and pride of GW without the pejorative feeling of "colonial." How about the GW Revolutionaries? This isn't rocket science.

A group that forms together to create an organization. Whether it be organizing a new colony or forming a new team.

I understand it to refer to the system of colonialism and exploitation that, well, built this country.

It highlights the linkage between the university and the early history of the United States, including GW's namesake

The country's forefathers

A group from a unified origin, usually a country, seeking to extend or retain its authority over other people or territories, generally with the aim of economic dominance.

it refers to the settler colonists who occupied the area

Settlers of the original 13 colonies

Whether it means "people who were colonized" or "colonizers", it celebrates a history of colonialism and conquest that should not be celebrated.

Subjects under imperial rule.

Founders of America

I'm french, so the first sense is an army of local levies serving a foreign, colonialist power.

Yes

people who settled at the Potomac River falls.

Colonial army in the Revolutionary War

Historical reference to early US settlers

What it in fact means is those who settled and founded America, who deserve eternal honor.

Residents and leaders of the 13 colonies pre-American independence

In this instance, people who lived in the North American British colonies and defeated the British in the Revolutionary War.

To me this means people colonizing other people, with or without their consent. Given US history and the atrocities that went with colonization--genocide, hostile take over, etc.--indigenous people were wiped out or removed from their land by the colonists. "Colonials" were those people of the colonies responsible for what happened to the Native people.

colonizer

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Immigrants from Britain who settled in the colonies in North America in search of a better life prior to the founding of the United States. Some did great harm (e.g., supporting slavery, violence towards native Americans) and others great good (e.g., rebelling from monarchy to found the United States). I associate the term "Colonials" mostly with the good they did in aiming for a representative democracy. The moniker was never ever intended to celebrate the evils of British colonialism.

American colonists who fought against British colonizers to achieve independence.

I know a colonial is someone who has lived in a colony but I think most people think colonials is tied to colonialism.

The first Americans who fought in the war for freedom from England

To be one of the first colonizers

A "colonial" is an often unwitting agent of empire. A colonial is not a colonizer, who commands an enterprise of settlement and exploitation. Nor is a colonial a colonized person, who suffers the violence of colonialism. A "colonial" is instead the member of the dominating or settling group who goes to the colony in search (usually) of a better life, and despite their affinity with the powerful colonizers, has relatively little agency in the colonial project. The colonizer wants the colonial to think that they are on the same side, and the colonial wants to think that their exploitation and violence has purpose. In this sense, "colonial" might be a suitable moniker for a school that often produces willing conspirators in grand imperial designs. But it does not reflect our ideals.

White settlers taking land from indigenous people -- whether in North America in eighteenth century or much of the world in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries

By historical context and most definitions it suggests people who actively displaced indigenous Americans and expropriated their land. Nothing to be proud of.

This is a traditional name for the European "colonists" who "colonized" this land and in the process displaced the natives.

Negative connotation. Makes me think of colonization.

At GWU, a weird little man with a tricorn hat. In general, the people sent by an empire-building country to acquire someone else's land by occupation and domination.

it refers to the Colonial Army, led by George Washington, during the Revolutionary War. I also understand the negative connotation the word has based on a world history of genocide and slavery.

People of the Colonial era / pre Revolutionary War

In the context of the school, I take it to mean the first Americans; however, I understand the more general definition of people who colonized other countries causing sensitivity

Founders

the individuals who settled in America and then fought for independence against Britain. Both sides of my family did so.

A reference to the country's origins.

Members of a group of settler colonists. Settler colonialism has a central goal of the removal and erasure of Indigenous peoples in order to take the land for use by settlers in perpetuity. This process is supported by an imperial power that views the settlers as racially superior to the indigenous people. The term is thus inherently a celebration of genocide and white supremacy.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

The heroes who settled the country and then did battle to free America from the yoke of oppression, led by George Washington, after whom the school is named.

It doesn't mean much to me. I assume it is a direct relation to the namesake, George Washington, and the American colonies/original colonials. It also calls to mind the idea of colonizer - which for me has a very negative connotation.

Related to the Continental Army, which George Washington commanded. While official residents in the U.S. Colonies were called "Colonists" not "Colonials," I do not perceive a vast difference. That said, I am aware that the word "Colonials" tends to evoke notions of invading armies/people who were set on "colonizing" other countries/peoples. Frankly, I would prefer GW's moniker become "Continentalists" because then it would more directly relate to Washington (as commander-in-chief) and appropriately evoke the history of that time -- whereby those on the "continent" rebelled against (declared their freedom from) England.

a proud American who lived in the original 13 colonies

A member of the 13 colonies that didn't want to pay taxes to England and as a result fought a war of succession. I believe there exists a distinction between Colonials vs Colonists

I read it in terms of 'colonialism' so am not a proponent of this moniker

Those who colonized the U.S. unfortunately did so in ways that laid claims to the land of Native Peoples often by treaties that have not been honored or by force. Further harm was done to many native people eventhrough the forcible assimilation of Indigenous youth through institutions of higher education.

Individuals that are part of a colony

People from Britain in North America before the US independence

Reference to inhabitant(s) of the American colonies, such as when the 13 colonies were established, such persons involved in the fight for freedom from British rule, and such persons who helped pioneer what is now the United States the most powerful, wealthy and influential democratic society in the history of the Earth.

Somehow related to a colony. Maybe originally due to colonization of North American continent, but later also an independent word for the architecture etc. style.

It carries many meanings--that's the problem. The 13 colonies were colonies of England. Many of us honor the colonials for changing their status and becoming independent of England. But, at root, they were the colonizers of land that belonged to indigenous peoples.

Slave owners

In this context, I interpret it as meaning people of English descent who reside in North America (in the 17th or 18th century) and consider themselves British subjects.

European inhabitants of the original 13 colonies -- who fought British colonialism while at the same time they practices their own forms of colonialism against indigenous people and African-descended slaves. So in rallying behind the Colonials, we're also rallying behind racist hypocrisy. Not a great look or feel.

revolutionary war American soldiers

People who colonized or subjugated others from different cultural group

Original settlers from Europe who established united states



What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Related to George Washington

Members of the original 13 colonies, but I can see it as "settlers", or invaders as well

Members of the military of the original 13 colonies of the US.

Initial settlers in the U.S.

Subjects of the English Crown who resided in one of the 13 English Colonies from 1607 or, perhaps, 1585, until declared independence in 1776.

For the team name, it seems to be a celebration of a specific period of time, namely the idea of what the 17th and 18th-century was for people like George Washington (dominance and expansion for the English-descendent elite)

Odd name because GW lead the fight AGAINST being a colonist!!!

The army commanded by General George Washington

Colonists

either (a) the people who lived in the early U.S. colonies, or (b) someone who colonizes more generally (for better or worse)

The Americans that overthrew the British control of this country.

In general? White men who claimed others (land, people, property) as theirs for whatever "higher" purpose they wanted

Colonials were the populations in the colonies of England in North America. There eventually rebelled against England in the war for independence.

I understand the terms as referring to citizens who live within a colonized territory; disenfranchised citizens, people lacking their own nation and government. In the context of GW I think the moniker intends to conjure the image of General George Washington leading the fight to free America from colonial/tyrannical rule, but I don't think George Washington, the person, and his ilk appreciated being "colonials." So it seems contradictory as well as offensive to people who live as "colonials" now, for instance many in Puerto Rico consider themselves to be colonized by the US.

A group of people sent to a distant land to establish a supply chain, usually by force or coercion.

Derogatory, inaccurate, outdated

colonizer or settler

In general, a segment of people living in an area that are connected and originate from somewhere else. In regards to GWU, my understanding is it represents the people inhabiting the north and south eastern parts of the North American continent that originally came from other countries prior to the American Revolution.

no special meaning

The settlers who colonized native land in 17th and 18th Centuries, eventually founding the United States of America.

Someone who lived in American colonies prior to the American Revolutionary War

Americans fighting British rule

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

White settlers and their descendants who arrived from Europe and assumed control of the United States from native populations.

original american settlers as well as patriots

some vague reference to Washington that in reality is not based in historical accuracy or factual relationships

Plymouth Rock people.

People who formed the colonies?

Those who carry out colonization and advance colonialism; those who lived in colonies (which were erected as part of colonization); those who lived during the Colonial period (during colonization of the US)

Originally meant to refer to American colonists, however this term has extremely negative associations in our post-colonial world.

Early settlers of the colonies

As people who fought against the monarchy.

At first, I thought of those who wanted freedom from England. But the more I learn, the more colonials is linked to colonialism and its exploitation and violence

originally a person who lives in the colonies, then by default applied to mena people who have a strong positive affinity with a colonial system of government, including slavery and exploitation of indigenous groups and other people by a pseudo-philosophy and religious belief that some people are inherently superior to others and have thus a natural right to rule over others.

It references a group of individuals that have colonized a region, most likely displacing or eradicating the original inhabitants.

Eurocentric, it's not very offensive, but it's not inclusive. Overlaps with oppression.

People who settled America before the founding of the U.S.

Domination, subjugation, and oppression of indigenous persons and communities often with criminalization of indigenous ways of being and belief systems

A colonial is a citizen in one of the original 13 colonies. They were explorers and immigrants to the North American continent and began to colonize the area, establish a form of leadership/government, and plan a society.

White people who conquered the land belonging (now) to the US, and began colonies.

people from one culture who settle in another culture for their own gain

Person who lived in America in the period preceding the enactment of the Constitution, of any race, religion, or national origin.

Settlers and their descendants who rose up against the British crown while repressing first-nations peoples and building an economy with enslaved labor; then imposed their own system of power to benefit the elite

Country's founders; First European settlers in the US; First (non-Native) Americans.

Nickname for GW Sports teams

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

The British colonial settlers who evolved into the founding population of the United States.

English settlers who first build colonies in the future US-territory. But, who also did so through violence towards the indigenous peoples.

Those from a certain era that fought for our country

The European settlers in the Americas

Ones who colonize.

Though I was raised to think of "colonials" as scrappy upstarts trying to find their way in a "new world," it is impossible in this day and age to separate the meaning from the related "colonization" and its much more negative connotations. This is not a mascot I feel good about cheering on.

People who take control of lands that belong to other people.

An innocuous university nickname, a reference to the pre-revolutionary war colonists in America, to a lesser extent a rarely used catchall phrase referring to those in history who have been part of colonialist governments and policies

The brave and resourceful men and women who forged a new nation that has become a beacon for freedom and equality around the world.

Founders of the United States

Those who occupy and take control over other societies through domination and exploitation.

either referring to colonial Americans, or to colonizers- actually, they are the same thing

People who arrive in a place and found a colony

People inhabiting the 13 original colonies of the current US prior to the Revolution and subject to British rule. My understanding includes slaves and native Americans living in the colonies.

Quoting the Declaration of Independence: "...We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States"

Members of a colonial society

a bit of pseudo-tradition linked to our first president

I associate it with colonialism and the attempts of white European countries to establish complete dominance over indigenous people. It is white supremacy by another name.

Not really sure and it's a hard name to cheer for, so hoping they come up with something better!

Those individuals who were colonists, creating an outpost settlement & society as part of a larger empire.

in relation to George Washington, it refers to the founders of our nation

to me it's offensive - everything 'colonial' is offensive

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Colonists

Those who colonized the United States and took land from Native Americans.

Revolutionary war insurrectionaries

I understand that to refer to the rebels against British rule during the Colonial era. Having said that, most people see the name without context, and the current reading of it would be either as colonizers or as those subjugated as colonizers. It does not translate well in the 21st Century and is overdue for revision.

The group of people that were part of the first colony's in what became the U.S.

violent takeover of land

White people during colonial times (1700s-early 1800s in US).

It's impossible to separate "colonials" from "colonialism", and in order to be inclusive, we really shouldn't be harkening back to a day when our brothers and sisters of color were systematically killed and oppressed by white monarchies.

As a noun, this would mean inhabitants of a colony. However, it could also be interpreted to mean individuals who seek to implement colonialism - that is, extending rule and/or authority over weaker individuals and territories.

Someone who lives in a colony, if you're looking for a dictionary definition. But the connotation certainly isn't a positive one given what many early colonists in the U.S. did to the indigenous people to whom this land belonged.

Colonialism. For example, British Empire and the colonial countries and states that were under the British Empire.

refers to the first non-native people to come to the US -

People who supported the succession from England in 1776 and supported/fought in the Revolutionary War to create the United States of America.

People who conquer foreign lands to spread their government ideals.

Those that colonized North America and founded our country.

Colonization, slavery, ethnic cleansing, culture eradication, racism

Relate back to our founding.

people who colonize, i.e., infiltrate communities in a hostile manner

Refers to colonial heritage/George Washington

I would say it means anything in relation to countries that have colonies, and colonialism in general. Obviously our name comes from the colonial pre-revolution era, and it's umbrella over colonialism in general.

early american settlers from europe

Honoring the Colonial army in the American Revolution

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

A history of exploitation and the opposite of the way George Washington would have described himself

linking GW to early history of the United States (even though the university was founded long after the United States gained independence from Britain)

Members of the American Revolutionary Army under General George Washington

Teams

members of the 13 original colonies

Relating to the original 13 colonies that became the US

It celebrates those who colonized the land here, and ultimately conquered/moved out/massacred its original inhabitants.

Members of the 13 original colonies in America who fought for freedom to form an independent nation

A reference to pre-Independence British subjects in North America.

George Washington's Colonial Army, meaning from the Colonies.

colonialism

I understand it to refer to a period of American history in which this country was a "colony" of Britain. We became independent of that relationship with the American revolution. I understand what colonialism means, but I do not think "we are the colonizers" when I hear "GW Colonials." I think of it as an extension of the period of time when George Washington played a major role in our nation's history.

people who acquired political control over another country, occupying it and exploiting it.

A person who lived in the United States (both when it was a colony of the British monarch and during the revolutionary war)

A derogatory term of enslavement

People who live in a colony.

Member of one of the 13 original US colonies.

Individuals who took land that was not theirs and slaughtered Native Americans

People who lived at the time of George Washington

A participant in the Revolutionary War

YES

members of the GW community

It is the name of our official mascot

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Colonists; White Settlers

It is someone who colonizes

It is a reference to the way Americans referred to themselves before independence

People from Europe who populated North America in the 1700s.

Colonial American

It's the GW Mascot but refers to Washington as part of a process of colonization -- of the land that is now the United States.

Venerating the white men who founded the colonies in the 17th and 18th centuries and led the Revolution and founding of the U.S.

settlers/colonizers -- vehicles of imperialism

Revolutionary War fighter against the British.

referring to the colonists from Europe who settled the east coast of North America

It's a reference to the white settler-colonials who stole this land from indigenous people

A name from a time before awareness of the damage colonialism, and the white supremacy that scaffolded it, has been more widely shared. I respect those who have valued the name as the name of teams they have worked hard for and played valiantly for. But it has always offended me, and it's time for change.

Brave independence

People that inhabited the English Colonies in what is now the United States.

Colonial era soldiers

Staff

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Colonial, one who reflects the values, dress, vision, needs, expressions of independence from Great Britain, expansion of a new world order in the America's, and the Colonial/colonizing phase of American History.

While intended to rouse school spirit, it often translates to an outdated moniker harkening to colonialist times, imperialism and white supremacy.

Colonials = Colonizers, which means someone who takes another's (often a group of indigenous people) land as their own, devaluing the culture(s) of BIPOC people across the globe and centralizing white culture/forcing white culture to be the dominant culture of the area/taking political control of the area. Slavery and genocide commonly went hand-in-hand with colonization. Colonials encompasses all of this to me.

It is a term referring to a group of people who have colonized another group of people and their land. More specifically as it relates to GW - it refers to the people who colonized America.

group of fighters looking to extend their dominance in an area

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Colonials refers to colonizers (including the early US settlers, colonizing native land)

Colonials refers to colonial America and the individuals who settled in America at that time. Colonialism refers to political occupation.

the 1500-1700s European colonizers of North America

Inhabitants of a colony, specifically (in this case) the 13 British colonies that became the United States.

The term refers to the people from England who came over to the Americas to settle down. It also refers to the colonization of the Americas by those settlers which lead to the genocide of Indigenous peoples and the enslavement of African peoples.

A term used to describe inhabitants of a colony, but as it pertains to American History - possibly a tool utilized by elites to maintain order...sadly, it comes across as a symptom of systemic racism...

Members of the initial colonies that forged to form the United States

A reference to the Colonial period.

Colonials are a reference harkening back to the era and people of the University's namesake, George Washington.

yes

Imperialist conquerors and subjugators of indigenous peoples.

Inhabiting a colony. Colonialism is a practice of domination and "Colonials" is too close to this definition

This country was founded by Colonials and we would not be here today enjoying the freedoms this country offers if not for them.

Frankly, I don't understand what it means in the context of a moniker. But in a larger context, it refers to a time when America was a colony of Great Britain (a time of history the namesake of the university fought hard to end). It refers to a history of (typically) European powers occupying and exploiting other areas of the world.

This refers to the practice of colonization which has many negative consequences.

Colonialism and oppression of indigenous peoples and black americans

yes

I understand that it was a time when this country was developing by asserting country and citizen rights, establishing boundaries, and developing laws.

"Colonials" was confusing to me when I first joined the staff at GWU. Were we referencing Revolutionary America? But what does that have to do with GWU aside from the GW name? It seemed awkward as a modifier to services, e.g. "Colonial Printing"

Members of George Washington's army that fought against the British

Original members of the US Army

White colonizers that stole land, enslaved and decimated native people, and brought stolen people from other countries to America to use them as slave labor.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

The term "Colonials" is GW's mascot and sports team name/nickname. However, the word colonial (or colonist) refers to someone who moves to and establishes residence in an area, historically at the expense of those who originally occupied that land (indigenous people).

In the context of history and the implications, we all know what it means.

yes

A Revolutionary War soldier, however, the current association with "colonization" is troubling.

Short Response: Colonizers who stole native land. Long Response: Colonialism is the policy of a country seeking to extend or retain its authority over other people or territories, generally with the aim of economic dominance. In the process of colonisation, colonisers may impose their religion, language, economics, and other cultural practices on indigenous peoples. ~Wikipedia

A person traveling to a distant land and bravely seeking to forge a new life in an unfamiliar place, but also not considering the impact of that their new life will have on the people who already live there.

To me, the term "colonials" initially brings up the idea of George Washington and his fellow colonial leaders during the Revolutionary War. However, when remembering many of those leaders, it also brings up the thought of how while they struggled for freedom/equality, they also kept slaves and many were participating in the subjugation of the Native American population.

People who come to take over someone else's land and/or nature.

Racist / Imperialist concept of the foundation of the United States of America

Peoples who possess and/or claim the rights of a piece of land that does not belong to them.

I never much thought about it before the recent climate of awareness around these issues, but I generally associate it with the British colonies

It was supposed to come from the colonialist, but now it is a term for colonization.

People who live in a colony

I think the term refers to the people who established the colonies in America and fought against England for independence in the time of George Washington.

Family.

People who went to another country and took the land from native people, which includes many horrendous acts.

The Continental Army, led by Gen. George Washington, which fought for independence from English colonial rule.

To control and exploit another country

inhabitant of a colony

Mostly a mascot, but still...it does represent an imbalance of power, and an injustice - someone colonizing another, less-powerful group...

When I think of "Colonials" I think of the first men to take up arms against the British, thus beginning our nation's fight for freedom.

I understand that it represents the domination of underrepresented populations.



What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

White Men from First American Military Regiment

adjective. of, concerning, or pertaining to a colony or colonies: the colonial policies of France. of, concerning, or pertaining to colonialism; colonialistic. (often initial capital letter) pertaining to the 13 British colonies that became the United States of America, or to their period. ... forming a colony.

Founding fathers of the British colonies. Those who took land from native inhabitants and claimed it as their own. Slave owners who used human labor to build on the land.

People who live in a colony, not in their own sovereign country.

The individuals responsible for colonizing America

A colonial is an individual who takes over land/territories. Colonizers sometime impose their practices on indigenous people.

The original army to colonize the territory that would become the United States.

Colonizers who defeat other opponents but "colonizing" them. In any context, this is highly inappropriate. This is particularly inappropriate given the history of the US and the displacement and massacre of Native Americans. Furthermore, GW is now a very diverse University with students from all over the world whose countries have fought for independence. The name "Colonials" no longer reflects the values and background of the students, staff, faculty and people of GW.

I assume it was an attempt to reference George Washington's army, but my understanding is that "Continental" would be more accurate.

Original settler of USA

Someone or someone whose family who came from another country to inhabit another and impose their values or system of government on the new country

The term colonials is used to describe people who inhabited land without the permission of its residents through violent behavior such as conflict, wars, battle, and enslavement. The colonizers then disenfranchised the original inhabitants by changing their culture, language, demographic, and way of life of life through oppression.

Colonizers.

I understand it to mean that another country or people having control (financial and political) of another country or group of people.

The peoples who came to the east coast of Northern America to establish a new colony.

Relating to those who lived in the colonies who became the US. Those who risked ALL to become FREE and paved the way for us to live in the greatest country on earth

A group of people who took over Native American land.

Ha, depends on context. In this context, it's a team/university name. Could be "original colonizers of the land we stole from the natives" or could be "people who lived in colonial times."

Someone who lived in a colony. This is different from a COLONIZER which would be offensive. There is a common erroneous conflation of these two terms. One implies the underdog, the other is oppressive.

The people who colonized America

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Residents of the 13 original colonies; Continental Army

A group of people who settle in another land bringing others. They eventually became unwelcome guests as they exert their will upon native inhabitants. Europeans that felt superior to another. A group of people who's lasting legacy was racism, bigotry, hate (white supremacist).

Colonials represents the term used for settlers in the early years of the country.

I understand that "Colonials" refers to the colonists who came to North America from Europe and would later fight in the revolutionary war.

I attribute it to the founding of the nation-- the 13 original colonies and the American Revolutionary War, not the practice of colonialism--- the subjugation and pillaging of native peoples and lands. I can see how my perspective as a white male might inform my answer, and it is my sincere hope that we can resolve this issue with the least amount of heartache. GW has had to deal with a lot lately.

In my view, the term is inherently connected to the heritage of American history, that include people of all races, regardless of how they arrived here. At one point or another, all of us have been colonists of this New World, willing or unwilling, including those to whom we refer as 'Native Americans', who arrived here some 12000-30000 years ago during the Ice Age by crossing from Asia over the Bering Strait land bridge. I see no issue with the term and it doesn't hurt my feelings.

citizens of a colony

Someone who exploits others for their own gain and then justifies the exploitation by using false ideology.

People from the Colonial Era

An attempt to represent George Washington and the revolutionary army in a mascot

Objectively - colonists are invaders who claim rights to resources by force and colonials are the reapers of that invasion. As Americans, colonials were the first of us.

colonizers

The white-washed term for the settlers that forced colonization of the Indigenous peoples already living in the Americas.

Someone who lived in a colony. I've heard that it had negative connotations during colonial times, and it's also not necessarily a time period that we should celebrate given the atrocities committed by white settlers to Native Americans and African slaves.

A group of people who benefited from the colonization of land and resources from local indigenous peoples which allowed them to form colonies that further established their power, dominance, and independence from both Britain and the indigenous peoples around them. Such a deliberate, divisive, and inequitable action still has ramifications today economically, politically, spiritually, and I would argue ethically.

In the context of GW, to me it means an American colonist. However America was colonized at the expense of indigenous people and black slaves.

I'd define it as "People who formed a colony". It summons the image of a militaristic and imperial system, seen in for example the colonization of India or Africa by the British.

Some lame bullshit that tries to hearken back to some more noble history, but is really just about a bunch of white nationalists committing genocide against natives.

Colonials is a term that ties back to the original English/British settlers and can be seen as a negative term in the same vein as Christopher Columbus. These settlers, both pushed the natives off their land and a lot of the rich had slaves. The colonials were also still subject to British rule.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

People who live in colonies or are themselves colonizers; occupants of territory that they contributed to taking for economical and/or political power; relationship to colonization and forcing dominant culture onto those who have been colonized; in the context of GW - honoring the U.S. colonists who caused violence, displacement, and harm to Native Americans

A representation of the people struggling to forge a new life, often out of sheer hope or desperation; risk taker and immigrant.

I've never understood the colonials moniker as a mascot.

First people to colonize North America.

Free people living in North America who were subject to British rule.

The colonial army under President George Washington

White European colonizer of the Americas

taking something individual/native and organizing it under one rule for the alleged benefit to all.

Colonial time Americans

imperialism, white supremacy

Colonials is a reference to Colonial times and to the era of George Washington for whom our university is named. While an important time in history for the formation of the US, it also refers to an era where slavery and injustice toward BIPOC was accepted and in some cases encouraged.

A group of "Americans" who started a revolution and overthrew the British and went on to establish a new nation.

Apart from the literal definition, I believe the term, as a moniker for GWU's athletic teams, pays a great deal of respect to those early settlers/explorers who essentially created America as we know it. It means that we haven't forgotten where we come from, or why we're even here to begin with.

The Colonials are the first people to settle the area that came over from England. Their history is complex and involves genocide, however intentional it may have been aside. It is a representation of the settlement of Europeans into North America formally.

founders of current government system in the US who replaced the indigenous population.

a group retaining its authority over other people or territories, generally with the aim of economic dominance

Colonists from the Revolutionary War era who fought for independence

I attribute it to colonization and the expansion of Europe in the 18th and 19th centuries. Which has a lot of negative connotations.

People who colonized other countries. People like Columbus and the British.

Those who fought for the 13 colonies independence from Great Britain during the 18th century

Soldiers in the Continental Army during the War of Independence.

Colonials are those who pillage and take by force land with no regards to the indigenous habitants (or long time settlers) of that land.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Those who colonized the United States.

A colonial is a person whom occupied a colony. I associate it mostly with the Revolutionary War time period. The word colonialism is the practice of domination of a subset of people over another. Given this information, in my opinion, the term has a negative connotation and association.

Natives or inhabitants of a colony

not sure what GW message is by "Colonials"

It means

I understand why GW is the colonials, but as society has become more aware of the lasting effects of historical racism, I think the moniker is no longer appropriate for GW.

Understand that the original intent was to tie in with George Washington and that era, however, in current context it could be seen as identifying with or promoting colonialism (not good).

I never think Colonials are the individuals who colonized the US and its territories.

People associated with the original settlers forming the original 13 colonies.

a member or inhabitant of a colony, a type of design/architecture, territorial expansion over weaker people or areas

A group empowered by a larger European/Western power that violates the land and peoples of another culture/ethnic group

Those who came to the land from England to escape religious persecution (and other reasons) prior to the Revolutionary War. I tend to think of individuals like Sam Adams and Benjamin Franklin.

The European colonists living in America at the time of the American Revolution.

Celebrating the liberation from British rule and the birth of a free nation.

The Founders

Colonial describes something that is related to the original 13 colonies that formed America.

Colonials = colonizers

People who leave their home countries to form new settlements in other parts of the world. Often this involves over time unjustly subjugating the native peoples already living in the colonized land to be ruled over by the colonists and their home countries.

While the term is closely related to it's less popular term "colonialism," I (personally) don't feel offense in the term as it clearly relates to the namesake of the University. I think when viewing historical names and figures, you can only erase so much. I feel changing the moniker would result in a hollow victory that changes nothing. I feel the University does (with considerable effort) a great job in helping to make an inclusive environment and that is where the real change starts. There is certainly a time and place for name changes, I just don't feel this is an important one.

The colonists who then fought for freedom and became the US

White people who colonized lands of others.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

GW's mascot, and also a reference to the oppressive system of colonialism

Representing the colonial army

Proud acknowledgement of the founders of our great United States of America ( colonial army) not colonization and their sacrifice to allow students to attend this great institution. .

In general it relates to colonization and individuals/institutions/societies that sought to colonize certain regions and peoples mostly by exerting control and dominance often by forceful means for self benefit.

Glorification of the people who colonized "new" lands that were already inhabited.

Colonials could refer to founding members of the United States or it could refer to culture appropriation and taking land

The Europeans who settled in America after it was discovered by Christopher Columbus. To me, it is also referring to the people who lived in the 13 original colonies, which later became the first 13 states in the new United States of America. This name has historical significance to all Americans.

It's intended to associate GW with the Revolutionary army that fought with Gen. George Washington

Colonials were the occupying white people that came to kill Native Americans and later enslave black people. Thomas LeBlanc jokes about the murder of black students at GW in the same vein as the whites that carried out the genocides of Native Americans and torture of black people. Changing the raciest name while keep Leblanc a president is performative and insulting.

People who colonize another country, usually by force

People who lived during the founding of the U.S.

First peoples from Europe to explore and colonize the new world

transfer of population to a new territory; European; history that doesn't involve ALL people.

Those who lived in colonial times.

I understand it's meaning to represent an unfortunate reference to a horrific time period in American history for black American people

In global context, colonizers, subjugators/exploiter of peoples (including Native Americans) for economic dominance, white man's burden.

The settlers of our country

One who develops a community in a foreign land extending the presence, reach and sovereignty of nation state often for the purpose of extracting agricultural and natural products and creating markets for industrial products.

Relating to the original colonies that formed the United States

A native or inhabitant of a colony

I think it's just a mascot based on George Washington's affiliation as a colonial.

The early settlers of America who fought in the Revolutionary War to establish the U.S.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

People who colonized a land that was not their own.

It is our mascot but it is also the term related to oppression and taking over areas to grow your lands.

Early founders of the US

I associate it with Colonialism and the negative connotation of acquiring land and economic prosperity without regard to the population that resides there.

folks that colonized "new" areas and exterminated indigenous peoples under the false belief of superiority

Colonial-era people prior to the American Revolutionary War; people who were colonized; people subjected to living in a colony

This is complicated. I understand that GW uses the Colonial moniker to signify the US colonists who rebelled against British rule. However, the term "colonial" is tied up with all manner of bad connotations, including in the US where it is linked to the extermination and subjugation of Native Americans, slavery and more. Even if not intended, it is a term that carries so much emotional pain and baggage that replacing it is a good idea.

I tie "Colonials" to colonialism in general and believe it has extremely negative connotations tied to it. Colonialism is responsible for innumerable human rights atrocities across the globe and I don't like that the Colonial Moniker is associated with GW.

Settlers

an individual living in a colony

In its primary sense it is a member of a party that practices Colonialism. In this regard this person would serve to dominate another individual or territory in order to strengthen their government's power. This could involve thrusting religious, economic, linguistic, and other beliefs upon an indigenous person that are likely in disagreement to their established systems.

The army lead by GW in the American Revolution.

Colonials means to me the people who came to a "new" land (America) and claimed the land as their own. Therefore, I picture some problematic white British men who took advantage of inhabitants and stole land that was not theirs. Not to mention that these folks are also ones who contributed to the problematic upbringing and continuation of slavery and the oppression of various identity groups.

Refers to American Colonists of George Washington's time.

The term is based in historical times and not the present. It brings to mind the original 13 colonies, the Revolutionary War and historical figures such as the country's founders.

I understand it to mean a group of people, backed by a government or company, that entered sovereign nations to set up new governments in order to extract natural and labor resources from those nations. There were often without the consent of the native people of colonized territory and colonizers often used tactics that put indigenous communities at odds with each other to manufacture an outcome that was profitable only to the colonizers. GW uses "Colonials" to mean the group of people our founding fathers, George Washington included, represented in America's fight for independence. But those men also helped promote the structures that led to the genocide of the indigenous Native Americans and destruction of the preexisting Free Nations that were located within the US borders. These men also promoted the Transatlantic Slave Trade, which resulted in the forced enslavement, relocation, and murder of hundreds of thousands of African people. Just because the founding fathers or "Colonials" represent liberty and freedom to one group of people doesn't mean they represent it to our entire student body. Considering our University doesn't have a great sports culture under which we can rally around a mascot, the choice to rename "Colonials" seems obvious. Universities with larger sports teams have changed their mascot names in recent history (Marquette changed their mascot to the Golden Eagles after criticisms that their original one was hurtful to native communities in Wisconsin). Let's follow Marquette's lead rather than Dan Snyder's, please.

Early settlers from Europe + colonialization

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

The landowners who settled the east coast during the 17th and 18th centuries. While I don't initially think of them as white, male, and slave owning, most of them were

People who lived in the British colonies of North America, prior to 1776.

An invasive population

Colonists from the revolutionary era, patriots fighting British rule.

A person who lived in the original 13 colonies

relates to George Washington's army and his role as a general

no

Colonials is the term for the GW community body. It is used to rally for sports as a "nickname" for the teams.

I understand that it has multiple connotations - one being a historical reference to the 13 colonies and George Washington's role as the commander of the Colonial/Continental Army to fight the British for independence. Colonials could also mean those that have come to settle and establish political control over the indigenous people of a given area.

Colonials represent a group of thieves and treaty-breakers, who facilitated genocide on indigneous peoples.

People from the colonies.

People who lived in a time when the lands where they resided were under their home government's rule/control.

An Americanism meaning a people from a country that was controlled by another and now is part of a colony.

It does read as colonizer to me

related to the original British Colonials that founded the country.

One who goes to someone else's land, imposes their own value system and culture, and steals their resources. I don't think it represents GW or our values.

The former British rule in American

A person that is part of a colony and who's country seeks to extend or retain its authority over other people or territories, generally with the aim of economic dominance. In the process of colonisation, colonisers may impose their religion, language, economics, and other cultural practices on indigenous peoples.

It references the American colonists prior to the War for American Independence, in this context. More broadly, it refers to any people whose home is overtaken by an invading power.

The term effects people who have been under the "rule" of government, changing their way of life.

I think of the pilgrims that came to the US and set up colonies. At first thought, Colonials sounds innocent. That said, there are negative connotations of people that "colonized" the US. Especially because these colonies built a country in which black people were owned.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

People taking pride in taking others land and forcing people to assimilate to their beliefs.

The white European colonists who came to North America to displace native populations.

Colonialism is control over an area or group of people. To be a "colonial" is likely to be one of those people under said control, though it's a bit vague.

Someone who came to the US and took land from native people.

The people who founded this country - by taking over native lands.

Invaders who take control and rule over the existing community.

Oppressor, corruptor, master

It is meant to be a nod to the American Colonists

Historically from on the of 13 original colonies on East Coast of what is currently the continental United States.

In this context, the individuals/groups who came from other places to the land that is now the United States and colonized it. In doing so, they committed many heinous acts.

mascot to GW's namesake, George Washington, as part of original colonies of the US

Reflect GW's time period

The colonists who lived in what is now the United States, pre-revolutionary war.

The white settlers of early America

white settlers from overseas who arrogantly claimed land for their own that was already occupied by Native Americans

people, or things related to, the forceful occupation of a territory with negligent or hostile disregard for the local inhabitants of the area.

a native/inhabitant of a Colonial

Affiliation with George Washington, the namesake of our university. He was one of our country's founding fathers and our first President.

Colonials and Colonialism are not necessarily representative the same thing. Colonialism is a brutal practice where dominant countries exploit a new land, but the Colonials that GW is memorializing were those who rose up against tyranny and oppression to fight for freedom and liberty.

It pays tribute to General George Washington and his role in being a forefather of the US and the original 13 colonies

I think of British and other foreign colonizers of North America.

White people stealing land, enslaving/abusing/killing/dismissing/stealing from people of color, appropriating culture, then pretending like everything's ok a few hundred years later. (I'm white, by the way.)

To me it is associated with pride in colonizing the land which is now the USA



What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

referring to George Washington's cohort of Colonial settlers

The soldiers in the revolutionary war.

Founding member of a society/state/country

I think in the past, the term "colonial" was meant to show independence, a spirit of adventure and exploration, and just a general connection to history (specifically American history). In short, it was probably seen as a positive term to use for GW's mascot--plus the connection to George Washington himself. In more recent years, the true meaning of colonization and colonizers has come to the forefront and the negative meaning of the word is more prominent. What colonizers around the world have done throughout history is most often NOT positive and have done more harm than good.

American colonists

White settlers / enslavers in the Americas.

I view "colonials" as representing the people who founded the United States of America, its culture and its institutions.

Settler

A person who goes into another person's land and takes it, often by force, with negative implications for the people already living there.

People who were colonists.

Holding power over territories and people.

The mascot of GWU. In reference to the 13 colonies.

White Europeans who killed the Native Americans, changed the existing culture, and exploited natural resources.

Taken from a historical perspective, it refers to the original inhabitants of the 13 Colonies that later became the United States of America.

People who took everything from the indigenous folks.

Historically, colonials are those from one country who forcefully stole land and ways of life from others in another place. There are very few examples of colonies taken without use of force.

Early settlers, Revolutionary activists

Referring to the Continental Army and related leaders/revolutionaries of the American Revolution. But the term "Colonial" in our globalized present-day context carries additional historical, contextual, and political meanings that might not make it readily clear which "Colonials" the GW moniker refers to.

I understood it to be the name for George Washington's troops in the forces that fought the British, but it seems that was really the "Continental Army." Of course, from the British point of view, they might have been referred to as the "Colonials"- as they thought we were there colony.

hero's

A mascot based on outdated principles.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

The people living in the British territories in what is now the United States that rebelled against the British Empire.

colonials=conquerors

This is a very loaded term. To me it means a team of colonizers which highlights the history of the dominant culture and undermines the history of the already established peoples and tribes that were assimilated to Euro-centric values and beliefs.

"Colonials" at GW is meant to reference the US colonial period under British rule in the 16th-18th centuries. However the term colonial has a lot of negative baggage. Being a colonial can mean that someone is provincial or backward. In a more modern context, it means being a second class citizen who lacks the same rights and privileges as the ruling class, or being oppressed. The colonial is typically a different race than those controlling the country, so there is a racist connotation also.

It is GW's sports moniker

The term is intended to conjure the soldiers who fought alongside George Washington in the Revolutionary War. GW led the Continental Army, not the Colonial Army. The moniker actually describes what that army was fighting against -- being a colony, subject to the power of outside (conquering) others. This alone should disqualify the name.

The people who were citizens of the colonies that eventually became the United States. It seems to be similar to "colonists."

I associate the term with colonization (i.e. the economic, religious, linguistic, and cultural domination over others).

Europeans that colonized Africa and the Americas, which in some cases was brutal.

I understand "Colonials" to be our nickname, with it representing the original colonial settlers and the origins of our country. The colors of the "Colonial Army" were Buff and Blue, and so it stands to reason that our university would have a nickname and colors to reflect its general, George Washington.

Colonials typically referred to as white people during a period of time when slavery and racism were also in place.

It is a term that represents racism and ethnic violence occurring when America was colonized.

I was never sure.

I view it as a reference to the "13 original colonies." At one point, America was not America, but was a collection of British colonies, until the drive for independence. The entire northeast of the country takes pride in that history, and the "colonials" moniker to me means a callback to that history -- that we were once colonies and are now a united, independent country instead. I think the controversy is silly. The colonists were all British, because after the Revolutionary War, they ceased to be colonists and instead became citizens of a new country. I do not think that the things British colonists did or did not do should be controversial.

Non-native inhabitants of what is currently the United States during the colonial period.

I understand it to imply "settler" or "first persons," which is incorrect.

Founders of our country, trailblazers.

Colonials in this case I believe to represent the European settlers living in the colonies of England that became the first 13 states

The first people of European descent to live in what is now the United States of America.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

A colonial (in the US) is a settler of the original 13 US Colonies who were seeking religious freedom. Colonials in the US were the founders, revolutionaries and citizens of the USA. I think all those are synonymous.

those who colonize

Literal. In this context, people who lived in the British Colonies of what ultimately ended up being the U.S., circa 1750-1776.

White colonists who settled in the Americas and fought the Revolutionary War.

To me, colonials refers more so to the colonials (colonists) and George Washingtons colonial army. However, I understand how colonialism can be offensive to students from locations that may have been colonies of other countries.

A reflection of George Washington's relationship to the United States; a leader of the army of the revolution; a reminder of a time in American history that elicits both pride and shame.

A nod to a group of thugs and murderers that pillaged a land not their and claimed it afterwards

White men who forced their way into other people's land and completely wiped out their cultures, or at least attempted to.

Members of the group of patriots who founded the US when its states were colonies of Great Britain.

The people who colonized America.

One who appropriates and incorporates sovereign land to their own.

Relating to the time of George Washington and the founders of the country

references the people contemporary to George Washington who lived in Colonial America

someone who settles in a particular land, though I mostly know it as a house style. I've always thought it was an odd moniker and kind of nonsensical, though I've come to understand it in the context of colonization and forceful takeover of lands from the original settlers.

I know it's not meant to be associated with colonialism, but that's what comes to mind

I think of the colonizers that came to the US and took over land and killed indigenous people.

pertains to a community

Original inhabitants from England and Europe.

Reference to European immigrants overrunning existing nations on the North American continent.

Historian Name

1) Colonials may refer to people living in the United States in the 18th century, and US residents may still be called "colonials" as a slang term in the UK. 2) Colonials is also a derogative term used by indigenous peoples in regions or countries that experienced imperialism. Specifically British imperialism where native and indigenous cultures were erased and the colonizing culture was forced.

historical reference to Colonial America when the US obtained independence from Great Britain with the heroic guidance of George Washington

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Related to the "Colonial" period of the United States (18th century)

One who colonizes

colony, occupying others, invaders, racists. just look at the definition...a country or area under the full or partial political control of another country, typically a distant one, and occupied by settlers from that country. "Japanese forces overran the French colony of Indo-China"

A pride point of the United States. As Americans, we were once colonized by the British, and we fought to gain our independence. I think this situation is overblown. I don't interpret Colonials to be offensive. Although I think that some sports team names are outwardly offensive ("Indians", "Redskins"), I don't think that this is one of them. I'm also a graduate student at the university, and hold the same perspective as a student.

Reference to Americans who supported and fought in the American revolution

The people from England who settled the US.

White colonizers who owned slaves and stole Native land.

Mascot named and modeled after a member of the Continental Army from the American Revolutionary War

University mascot referring to the US's Founding Fathers

When I think of "Colonials" I think of revolutionaries fighting against the tyranny of the crown but understanding that there are other perspectives that include the "Colonials" to be oppressive to the Native Americans and enslaved Africans.

Referring to the initial group of European settlers who colonized what is now the eastern united states.

Colonials refers to colonialism, which I associate with the repression and genocide of the Native tribes that inhabited the land that Europeans "discovered" in 1492.

Reference to our Founding Fathers and the early years of the U.S.

Colonialism; A nod to colonist; Overwhelming unsupportive of native students; Generally racist

Colonials is used at GW as a reference to George Washington for whom the university was named and the time-frame of Colonial America.

Occupiers; those who came to America, killed, raped, infected those already inhabitants of this land in order to build what they thought to be America

Those individuals who sailed across the Atlantic Ocean and lived in the colonies and those individuals who were born in the colonies during the time when our country was forming.

Initial settlers of the United States

someone who inhabits a colony

A reference to the original European settlers who came to what is now the US in the 17th and 18 centuries.

Relating to colony or colonies

Founding Fathers/Patriots.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

For me, Colonials is the term for the early European-Americans settlers. It's a term that brings to mind Williamsburg and the Founding Fathers.

It means the wave of British pioneers that settled in America for England.

Someone who lives in a location and identifies as being a member of another country, but joined politically.

Oppression

Yes

In a GW context I know it to be the mascot for GW -- especially the athletic teams. In a broader historical sense I recognize it as a term that usually refers to non-indigenous people (most likely White) stealing land and other material wealth from the people that have occupied that land for many years.

Having to do with the part of our history before the declaration of independence.

I hear "colonizer" so in my head, a "colonial" would be someone who arrived from another place and who would install his/her own institutions and traditions upon Natives to the location.

Control over another, conquering land and assuming power

an individual who lives in a colony. Someone who is part of a country who has expanded their territory and taken over the land of another.

A reference to George Washington's Colonial Army

It is an outdated term that has deep roots and history in the colonization and destruction of native populations. We can and need to do better.

Individuals from the colonial era

terrorizing other groups of people with the aim of political, cultural or economic dominance

Early settlers on America.

early American settlers

People who colonized the US

People who take over another culture.

Colonials - the revolution to make the US independent from the British, the colonial army under General George Washington

People who colonize other people/places, take advantage of them and force absorption or eradication of other cultures.

A person from a country that is or was controlled by another.

derogatory term for invaders who have little care for indigenous peoples or their culture.

A racist, outdated term

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

There are several connotations including ties to colonialism and colonization but also ties to just colonial times and the 13 original colonies.

I understand the term to reference the people of the 13 Colonies, specifically those in and around the Washington, DC area when George Washington was alive. I also understand and acknowledge the controversy of what "Colonials" represents, but at least it's not "Colonizers," who are actively taking indigenous land.

A reference to the colonial settlers rebelling against British rule under Congress and General Washington (also called the Patriots or the Continentals)

it represents the colonies that formed the united states

Initially I understood Colonials to mean founding members. Now, I understand Colonials to mean people who overtook land from native populations.

Yes

I understand it to reference our namesake - George Washington, but that it also acknowledges a history of violence, cultural appropriation, and robbing communities and people of their independence

A term used to represent a period of time in our history.

Members who participated in the 18th century American Revolution

in general terms, people who have left their homeland to settle in new lands. for the GW moniker, a tie to the army under George Washington during the fight for independence.

People that lived during the Colonial period 1607–1765.

Colonials is a representation of the Colonial Army that became the Continental Army headed by George Washington.

A representation of George Washington leading colonial soldiers during the American Revolution.

Ties to years before USA's independence.

Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Founding fathers and others who settled the United States, specifically in the context of GWU. But in a more general sense, it is a term that indicates subjugating another group of people, or at the very least, taking their land with little regard to their welfare.

White people dominating other cultures in an attempt to raise the "savages" from their "backwards" ways to bring them more in line with—but still submissive to—the "superior" West.

American colonizers

The successful overthrow of British colonial rule led, in large part, by the namesake of our university.

Colonizers of Indigenous Land in North America

Early Settlers

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Colonials does not mean colonizer, but the colonial founders of the nation that became the U.S. It represents the people who fought the British, and helped establish the original colonies into an independent country.

Colonizers of Turtle Island- associated with murder, rape, genocide, theft, etc.

Represents the 13 colonies. The formation of our nation. A group of individual colonies that came together to form the US.

The nation's founding denizens

A reference to forced ownership of land by a foreign country

Early settlers, colonists.

It refers to those who settled in the early "colonies" before the Revolutionary War. These were the same people who fought for freedom from British rule.

The people in the revolutionary war who fought for the country's independence.

Homage to George Washington, our university's namesake.

Colonizing forces

The ordinary men and women who--through blood, sweat, tears, trial, and turmoil--established the first systems of representative democracy in this New World before the Revolutionary War. More importantly, Colonials identifies the men and women who fought--and in thousands of instances were killed or wounded in action--in the Continental Army, Navy, and Marines during the Revolution. Their actions and sacrifices led directly to the establishment of America as a free and independent nation. To this day, because of their brave and selfless deeds, America remains for all people "a city upon a hill."

Europeans who pillaged and stole land/culture/lives from the indigenous people. It's a term used to make these invaders feel better about themselves because "colonizing" and "discovering" sounds better than invading, pillaging, enslaving, displacing, and killing thousands of people wasn't catchy enough.

Colonial means the person who does colonizing. In the context of the Americas (including Canada, USA, all of south america), it means white Europeans who pillaged, raped, stole the land of Indigenous peoples, then started importing African people to enslave them in inhumane conditions. There is nothing positive about that term. The first time I heard the chant, I was on campus, and my heart stopped. It was hard to contain my shock that this negative word was used as a positive cheer. It would be like using "Nazis" as a cheerlead term. It's very gauche.

It's an unfortunately common but outdated term used as a mascot at GW and elsewhere but the fraught and violent history of colonialism has rendered the term unacceptable as a rallying point of any sort.

Colonial Americans

Non-indigenous individuals who lived in North America, with contextual relevance to those who lived in present-day USA who fought for independence against Great Britain in the late-18th century.

It is in reference to the residents of the 13 American colonies and their successful rebellion against British rule.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

1967 Version: Colonials were (and are) people seeking opportunities not available at home (U.K), fleeing a system of government over which they had little/no control, willing to sacrifice today to achieve their goals tomorrow. Overall - this could be a good description of GW students. 2020 Version: I would hope the interpretation I showed is still valid. I don't believe we should turn our backs on the original (imperfect) colonials in order to satisfy what could be a transient idea. Note: my first dormitory assignment was "Calhoun Hall". I know the history of Calhoun and do not disagree with the name change to "Lafayette" - however, while Lafayette did not support slavery, he was also not a perfect man. That he had a title of Marquis could be seen as "elitist", etc. In other words, the myriad list of individual preferences, when combined, present a "demand" that cannot be satisfied without "offending" someone. Be careful with this process or you may face another demand to rename the student body because some find the new name to be objectionable based on interpretation of then-acceptable standards. Political correctness stifles free speech.

Yes

Not derogatory.

A person who lived in, or during the time of, the original 13 colonies of America.

Founding fathers of the country

a term of honor, respect to Patriots who fought off the oppressive British. A great name.

American revolutionaries, but sounds like "colonists"

The men and women who founded this country, fought for our freedom, and created the greatest country in the world.

I understand it to mean a people who were subjects to a ruler in a far away kingdom. These Colonials rose up against this ruler in a fight for their freedom and values. In terms of GWU, the Colonials have a fighting spirit against those that try to oppress them.

The people who colonized America.

Those who colonized a new frontier seeking freedom. Adventurers, people of strength. Sounds like a good mascot to me.

It references the time when America existed as the 13 colonies under Britain.

Colonials refers to the Colonists who fought the British for the independence of our great nation. The idea of changing the moniker now to appease a small group of sniveling social justice wannabes deeply offends me.

Someone from the era during which the USA was a British colony.

The colonists who lived in North America that fought for freedom against Great Britain

A nod to the colonizers who founded the U.S.

I'm originally from Kenya. We were colonized by the British. From what I read, see and hear, it was brutal and insubordinating. As a former British colony, still tied to the commonwealth, Colonials, to me is not a very welcome term. I always think hard and more than twice before I write or pronounce it when supporting my alma mater. It's hard to display "pride" as a black person of African origin using the term "Colonial". It doesn't sound right. It's a the wrong term for me. It's full of pain.

The term denotes the people who emigrated to North America for a variety of reasons, including economic, religious and political liberty.

I understand it as a reference to the political/cultural status of the American colonies that eventually became the United States before and during the Revolutionary War. However, it also directly references and romanticizes the act of colonization, which had horrific human rights consequences that are still with us today.



What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Colonials are people who came to the land that is now known as the U.S. from Europe to take it from its native people.

People from a different place who arrive at a new place and take it over as their own. Often in history, colonization has occurred on land already occupied by native people, and the colonizers have caused the native people societal and/or physical harm.

British subjects living in any UK colony.

It is a reference to the Continental Army led by George Washington, during the American Colonies' war of independence.

The term is synonymous with "colonizers," the groups of white men who took over native and already inhabited lands, usually by force, and displaced or killed the inhabitants of those regions while claiming those lands as their own.

The Army that fought the British.

residents of a colony or imperial power who may not share the same rights or liberties as the residents or citizens of the colonizer or imperial power

1. A person who colonized land previously occupied by their native population. 2. The GW Mascot.

A founder of a country, explorers, adventurers

People who were colonists from Great Britain to America in the 17th - 18th centuries.

early Americans

A white male colonial settler who settled in the US colonies in the 1700s

British settlers in the USA who eventually started the American Revolution.

Tied to our GW Buff and Blue Continental Soldier's uniform colors of those serving the cause of Freedom as "Colonials", the citizens of the 13 Colonies.

Integrity and grit

yes

Those who occupied the American colonies prior to the separation (via the American Revolution) from Great Britain.

Like colonists

Either American Colonists or members of the Army during the Revolutionary War.

The pre-revolutionary status of the United States. Since George Washington led the fight to end the colonial status of the American possessions of England, it makes no sense to use Colonials as a moniker.

People of the colonial era, for which George Washington was one.

To me, the word colonial carries connotation of colonizers and colonies - institutions that were and still are used to oppress native land users, enforce another system of beliefs and government, and steal natural resources

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Commemorates the colonists who fought in the American revolution.

White colonizer

It was a soldier during the Revolutionary War.

A person who lived at the time of the Revolution.

Relating to the Colonial period of time in the United States

GW mascot; or if you're referring to definitionally - either a member of a colony, the founders of the country, or the original American colonies

founding fathers

It is a person who takes something that belongs to someone else and claims it as their own. Colonial settlers have been white washed in our history books due to systems that are designed to maintain white supremacy. The US history of genocide and slavery is directly tied to colonial systems of oppression.

It is the school's moniker.

I understand it to be a reference to the original 13 colonies and the people who settled there, those individuals who founded the United States. I also understand that terms related to colonization can have a negative association, as in many cases it resulted in the displacement and death of indigenous people.

Colonizer, oppressor, celebrating whiteness

Someone who is colonizing land that is not theirs/participating in the colonization of preoccupied land.

People who lived in the British colonies in America.

People who lived in the British colonies.

People who emigrated from Europe, many to escape religious persecution, settled the land and later started our country.

Military rank, in this case relating to the Revolutionary War

The founding fathers!

A group of people who started the 13 colonies that eventually became the US.

I think the term is vague, but its historical connotation is not a good one. It's too similar to "colonists" or "colonizers."

The people who participated in the American revolution and established the United States.

Those who lived in [what became] the US during the pre-revolutionary period

I interpret the term "Colonials" to relate to the colonists from Western Europe that immigrated to or lived in America (and became the USA) pre the Revolutionary War. That would make George Washington to be a colonial.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Referencing early American colonists: hard working, strong, adventuresome, etc.

A reference to the settlers who arrived from Europe looking for a better life in America.

It is most commonly a reference to a more powerful nation occupying and controlling a less powerful nation. It also refers to the original settlers of the United States who were the founders of the nation.

Yes

Colonizers. Not a positive.

A moniker reflecting the era of our namesake George Washington

Entities complicit in colonizing, and therefore are oppressors

I think of the historical context of Colonials more than anything, which has problematic roots.

The fore-bearers of American Citizens who threw off the yoke of British monarchic despotism. The defiant Colonials, of the 13 original British Colonies in North America, formed an independent government based on the principles of liberty and equal justice for all. This system would set the conditions for incremental progress toward equality and serve as a beacon to the rest of the world. The United States of America would become known as "The Land of Opportunity". The moniker Colonials is a tribute to those who would not be controlled by an outmoded system and have the bravery and confidence to start their own.

Native or inhabitants of a colony. Community. Rebellion. Independence.

"Colonials" represents the men and women who endured many hardships to colonize new land that would become the United States of America. They took up a task that would obviously not be easy, and their sacrifices left a mark on history in the form of this country. "Colonials" immortalizes this legacy. Remaining headstrong in the face of adversity and making history are what come to mind when I read the word "Colonials."

the first settlers of the US; also associated with the negative term "colonizer"

Reference to the non-native settlers of America who declared independence from England.

The founders of our nation that secured our independence from the British Crown.

Briefly, I understand this to mean that Colonials signifies a group of those who arrived from the Old World and were among the first to settle, thus paving the way for the eventual Declaration of Independence and creation of the United States of America - with George Washington, our namesake, being its first president. I understand Colonials to signify the University's history as being authentically and fundamentally American, with liberty being a fundamental virtue of our country. That said - there is a whitewashing overmuch of the resulting and imposed misery endured by Native Americans.

Clearly associated with founding citizens and especially G Washington

Referring to the non-native people who settled in America

, "colonials" is of course derived from colonialism which has direct ties to slavery in America. As a black man on campus (one of the very few), there wasn't any sense of pride having our moniker be the colonials. To have our GW mascot prance and dance around knowing he once owned slaves is very much a slap in the face.

White people forcefully invading foreign lands (i.e. colonial invasion) and killing people of color globally

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

I think it's less about the exact definition and more about the connotation of the term, that being said the exact definition is also offensive as it relates to colonialism ..... the policy and practice of a power in extending control over people or territories (ie how native Americans were treated as well as black Americans)

A person who steals the land of and controls a group of people he determines to be weak. A colonial is typically a white person who steals, rapes, murders, enslaves black, brown, or indigenous persons.

the founding fathers

I understand the term Colonials to mean British colonists who occupied and took over Native land in the modern-day US during the era of the 13 colonies in the 17th century.

Founders of the country. People who came from the UK and established colonies as the beginning of the formation of the US PRIOR to the American revolution.

Reference to the period prior to the American Revolution. A colonial is one who inhabited the colonies prior to 1776.

"Colonials" is a historical term used when ruling powers would inhabit and use resources to their benefit. Not just a Western phenomenon - all cultures had some aspect of dominating weaker societies around them for resources.

Celebrating those that fought the American Revolution War

Historically in the Americas, people from Europe who came to settle and their descendants during the period prior to the formation of independent governments (i.e., before establishment of the USA).

I understand the term Colonials to represent the Colonial Army, the group that fought for this country's independence from Britain and defended the freedoms that EVERY single one of us enjoy today.

I understand that in the GW context, it refers to the early American colonies in which George Washington lived. However, I think colonial has a broader and more negative meaning, both in the US and the world. GW is a university with a global view, and I believe the mascot should reflect that.

It refers to the individuals living in the original 13 states prior to securing independence from Great Britain.

Superficially, someone associated with GWU. Otherwise, people who came to the predecessor of the USA to colonize it, subjugating the native population and enslaving blacks from Africa, all in the purported attempt to create a nation separate from England.

I associate it mostly with sports mascots, but to me, it means someone who was patriotic and fought for the independence of the US from Britain, which allows us to have many of the freedoms we enjoy today.

It represents the North American "Colonists" and commemorates George Washington's command of the Continental Army as they fought for American Independence AGAINST a distant, oppressive imperial power.

Early residents establishing the foundation of our country. People living in the colonies.

Two-fold: 1. Colonial as the European colonizer of native American lands. 2. Colonial as the early settler who fought for independence from Great Britain

A shortened version of the Colonial Army - the American troops during the Revolutionary War.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

For me, Colonials mean people from Europe who colonized the Americans and stole land from the native/indigenous people. In fact, they labeled the native people as savages when they tried to fight for their land. This is the beginning of the U.S. white supremacy. To add insult to injury, colonials casted themselves as heroes in the history of the U.S. rather than telling the true story of their behavior against the indigenous people. Colonials instituted the racist laws that have been negative and unspoken part of American history. The impact and legacy of the colonials is white supremacy.

White settlers illegally occupying native land and the powers that mobilized to acquire these lands. Or things from that specific era.

A reference to the early settlers of this land before nationhood.

Those who fought for independence from the United Kingdom.

Yes

I believe the GW term/mascot is meant to be nostalgic of early settlers, but the reality is colonials bring devastation to original/first peoples and, like in the US and South Africa, create tiers of people to uphold their power.

The inhabitants of the original British colonies that demanded and fought for their independence under the leadership of, among others, George Washington.

Those who established the original British colonies, seeking freedom from oppression and religious persecution.

Colonials are, to me, actors of a colonial enterprise and enactors of colonial violence and imperialism.

a nod to George Washington

Historically, those who came from Western Europe to explore and resettle in parts of Asia, Africa and the Americas. This includes problematic elements but not exclusively so.

Brave, tough, resourceful, discovery-oriented pioneers, forging innovative (anti-monarchial and pro-individual) political and intellectual foundations for freedom in North America.

I think of it as a moniker for George Washington and the first settlers that built the colonies, but it also indicates stealing land, resources, and other negative impacts from native tribes that are the true Americans.

Reference to the period of George Washington, for which the school is named

It seems to suggest a bygone era of America, when the US was under colonial rule. It's referring to the colony, not the states. George Washington was not a Colonial.

I think of it as a term to indicate settlers that came to North America in the 1600s and 1700s. These people are not people we should be honoring. They were slave-holding and they led massacres ending the lives of Native Americans.

tied to our founding father George Washington

In GW context, a representative of the American colonial period

I think it's a nonsense word. Colonists were those that came to America, while Colonial sounds like something your doctor recommends getting when you turn 45.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Colonials refers to the people that lived in the 13 British colonies during the 1700s. These same colonials later fought for their independence from Britain and became the United States of America.

People from colonial times living in the US East Coast

I understand the intention is to refer to the founders of the American colonies in a positive light but this excludes native people living here before colonization and is understood by me and others to represent the process of forcibly taking land, labor and lives that do not belong to you for profit.

I throwback to those who colonized the US and displaced the indigenous people who already lived here.

Someone from the 13 colonies

Those who lived under colonial government before United States independence

It is a nickname that refers to a soldier in the Continental Army during the American Revolution

People who inhabited the colonies.

As a country we started as colonial, it is our heritage.

Members of the colonial army/colonists who fought for independence.

I wasn't an athlete, but I worked at the Smith Center for all four years of undergrad, including summers. I do not have a strong relationship with the term Colonial as a identifier for GW athletics. And I do relate "colonials" with "colonizers" and understand how the term could be hurtful to those indigenous people who once lived in the U.S. before colonialism. I would be very comfortable changing the name if it would help repair relationships with people/communities that are offended or uncomfortable with the term. There are so many possibilities to honor the legacy of George Washington and the founding parents. We can find a new one.

COLONISTS (INHABITANT OF A COLONY)

Colonials, in the context of GW, are the settlers of European descent born in the colonies, specifically those who fought for independence.

A connection to GW's connection to the political center of the US and the historic revolutionary history.

A person from the original 13 colonies.

I understand it to refer to the revolutionaries that fought with George Washington during the fight for American independence. I also understand that to Native people, the world over, colonizers refer to groups that came to claim dominion over land, people and resources usually through violent means.

Circa Revolutionary War Americans and soldiers

Citizens of the British colonies who eventually gained their independence and created the United States of America

Colonial era, founding of America, 13 colonies, George Washington

People who were willing to endure harsh winters, lack of food, clean water, and the relative comfort of the land they grew up in, to flee religious persecution so they and their children could live better lives.

The team's name, referencing the colonial period.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

White people who came to American and stole land for the native and mistreated African Americans and other minorities

Variation on colonist or colonialist -- which, admittedly, have very different meaning.

Those who fought for the colonies in the Revolutionary War

Sport Team Mascot

People who colonize the Americas

Colonizers.

Subjects of the king

Residents of 13 original American colonies who fought for successfully for their independence and freedom from Britain

A) Old timey people related to George Washington B) An attempt to erase the harm done by settler colonialists who perpetrated genocide and land-stealing by remembering early US Americans as fun, brave, adventuresome old timey people related to George Washington

Yes

Early settler of America and patriot

undergrad sports

A person who settles in a different land and typically takes over the colony they "founded". Usually I picture the British taking over America.

relating to a colony

Yes

Conquerors

Colonizer

people who take over land not belonging to them

In this context, I interpret to to be a reference to government leaders, such as George Washington, during the Colonial period.

Founders of US. Fought under George Washington in Revolutionary war

Founding Fathers

being the best leader I can be and having pride in my school and country just like the daring and intelligent individuals who founded our country.

The "Colonials" moniker is a reference to American colonists of the variety who might have been contemporaries of George Washington.

Colonizers, germ-spreaders, perpetrators of genocide. People who cried against tyranny while upholding and justifying slavery.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Occupier of indigenous North American lands

The collection of brave Patriots (both black and white) who fought for the Independence of the United States of America, under the command of George Washington (the great man whom this University is named after).

Patriot from the continental army or supporter of liberty and breaking from tyranny.

Individuals who settled in the 13 original colonies of the US AND British settlers to other parts of the globe

People who lived in what is now the United States from a period of time from the early 1600s to 1776. These people (who are my ancestors) were invaders, bringing disease to native populations. It is also a historical period of time as in "colonial architecture." I have never been fond of the team name Colonials.

colonists

Representative of part of the era when George Washington lived as a British citizen in North America

English colonists pre-independence of the United States from the United Kingdom.

a part of GWU that should NOT change!

The early Europeans who settled along the east coast and founded America as we know it

A reference to Americans in the 13 colonies during the 18th century

European colonists who settled North America

A period in US history

white Europeans

In the context of GWU, the "Colonials" refer to students who attend GW.

Founding Fathers of the United States, establishing colonies as separate from the rule of the King

Colonials were referred to as Englishmen who lived in America before the Revolution and who rebelled for self-rule.

Individuals who left England to avoid persecution and freed themselves from British rule

Brave individuals who left England for a better life and to avoid persecution. US continues to allow immigrants in

As it was associated with The George Washington University, the people who established the Colonies back in the 1700's which later became the United States. I never thought of it in the broader sense of colonialism.

People who belong to a colony

Reference to colonialism and everything related to colonizing. A historical reference with unfortunate negative connotations.

unfortunately the dictionary term comes to mind first (versus revolutionary British colonials)



What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Founders of the country before independence

Immigrants who inhabited the 13 British Colonies that eventually declared independence and formed the first states of the United States of America.

The brave people who lived in America prior to our independence and who threw off British rule.

people from the time period of George Washington who lived in the colonies

Nothing but the patriotic spirit of the colonial army as they defeated the British and founded our nation.

In the context of America's Revolutionary War, the Colonial army.

Colonials refers to the people in history and now who were supporters and active drivers of colonization. I don't think this name is appropriate for GW given its diverse student population and high academic standing.

Founders of our Nation. Strong heroic patriots

The inhabitants or founders of a colony. Colonials is an homage to America's founding and heritage.

Referring to the people who colonized the Americas

Those who resided in the original colonies and fought for our freedom from England as well

Invaders who forcibly stole land and killed innocent people in the name of 'discovery'. There is nothing romantic about colonization

Connection with our school's namesake, George Washington's life, as well as US history.

Colonial history of how this country was started in Jamestown and Williamsburg.

A member of a colony. Colony being a group who have left their paternal land to form (in a new land) a settlement that is subjected to or connected with the parent land.

Early settlers of North America from European origin.

An early American citizen

I really do believe it to be tied to George Washington and his work as the general of the Continental Army made up of our colonial fighters who were fighting oppression. I do recognize that the term Colonials is tied to the concept of colonialism...and the idea of imperialism and oppression is not something that we want to be associated with. George Washington hated being called a Colonial...how about that? :)

Those who colonize an area; those who establish a living situation and livelihood to support the development of an area.

Yes

The settlers, primarily European, who made up the population of the early United States.

Our nation's earliest settlers and nation builders

American Revolution soldier

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Refers to America's history.

Colonial Americans, relating to the European colonization of America from the early 16th century until the incorporation of the colonies into the USA

An inhabitant of the original 13 colonies of America.

A term generally referring to the predominantly European people who recolonized the country we now call the United States of America.

A member of the original 13 areas which later became US states.

White people who lived in the 13 original colonies of the US

A colonial in this case is one who fought for America's freedom and establishment.

Someone who fought with George Washington

Someone who lived in the British colonies

I think colonials are people who show up to land that was already owned and mistreat indigenous people

Historic term referring to the original 13 colonies of what would eventual become the United States, and its citizens, Colonials, often a term referenced to.

Original settlers of the U.S.

It is a name used to describe someone who lived in a colony such as a person from Rhode Island who lived in RI when it was a British colony and before it became a state and continued to live in Rhode Island including fighting alongside his brave brothers and sisters as they sought independence from Great Britain.

The rebel American Colonies seeking freedom from the UK.

founders of the country; people who were original settlers in the colonies

Perseverance & steadfast resolve

one belonging to a colony, and is also related to colonization of countries which can include racial discrimination/oppression

An attempt to tie George Washington into a sports team name.

The white people who settled in this country. At first I had no issue with it, but if these are the same folks who killed the natives and forced slavery, I find that abhorrent.

people who lived in the Colonies (late 18th century)

In this case, it is a reference to settlers in the English colonies in what would become the United States prior to the Revolutionary War. George Washington himself was a colonial. It carries the larger meaning of any settlers from a colonial power in a territory being colonized by outsiders - but this general meaning is not what "Colonials" means at GW.

i'm Trinidadian, so Colonials are associated with pillagers and rapists.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Residents of the European colonies in North America

Part of first colonies/association with George Washington

A reference/deference to the original residents of the Thirteen Colonies and their activities associated with the revolt against England, the congresses in Philadelphia, the drafting of the Declaration of Independence, the subsequent Revolutionary War, the later drafting of the Constitution and the ultimate formation of the United States of America.

The Colonials were the irregulars that fought on behalf of the colonists during the Revolutionary War.

European colonizers around the time of George Washington

Someone who is native to a colony.

While there are many definitions, my understanding for this purpose relates to those who lived in the 13 original colonies. In Sep '19 Inside Higher Ed carried an article "GW Colonial Under Fire". Law Professor John Banzhaf wrote an excellent response on the article and quoted similar comments by Prof Turley. I agree. And I encourage the reading of these comments.

Inhabitants in the formerly English colonies.

The 13 original colonies that constituted the United States.

People who settled the US, killing many Native Americans in the process.

A group of settlers that occupy a place to establish political control over it.

people mostly from Europe who came here to settle

Usually I think of English settlers in east coast America. I can see how that term may have been used more widely in other parts of the world to indicate foreign settlers.

Europeans who committed genocide against the original peoples of Turtle Island.

The European settlers of America.

Reflects back to the name of the university - GW.

Individuals living at the time of the Revolution or those living with the ideals of that time.

Referring to the early settlers of America who helped found the country and fought the revolution- like George Washington

Citizens of the 13 British colonies in North America, which would become the United States.

individuals from colonial times

colonization, not just forgoing local cultures and traditions but also emphasizing and pushing for the culture, tradition, and religion of the colonizer. In this situation, often viewed as "superior" to the local race and culture

The Americans who fought with George Washington in the Revolutionary War.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

The American Revolutionary War participants who fought against the British Colony in order to gain independence and fight against taxation without representation.

I feel like a colonial is just a colonist, which is not cool given the massacre that colonists waged on Native Americans. And the fact the white colonialism as a thing has hurt black and brown people throughout history and still does today.

It is the name given to our GWU mascot. Colonials harkens back to the brave men and women who threw off the oppression of their King in exchange for a government by the people and for the people. I am very proud of that moniker.

early settlers of the British colonies

Imperialist

Colonial Army members in the American Revolution.

America started as a colony of Great Britain, our colonial identity formed us. As an Air National Guardsman and Air Force Officer the Colonial Minute Man is our source of Pride.

Colonists/early American settlers, particularly around the time of the Revolutionary War

Revolutionary era American rebels

Leaders of our nation that creates the constitution

A manifestation and representation of the people who fought for independence against the British alongside George Washington

Team affiliated with GW University.

Those who fought for freedom against Great Britain.

Members of the original 13 colonies

A murderous, genocidal people that wiped out the indigenous population whose land our university sits. (This is not hyperbole)

Residents of one of the thirteen original British colonies that separated from the rest of Britain in the late 18th century to form the United States of America

A conquering, invading, non consensual expansion and erasure of land, life, future, and epistemological.

People who live in a colony.

Colonials refers to the American colonists who declared independence from Great Britain.

My understanding is that the term refers to inhabitants of the first 13 colonies.

Like a colonist from Ye Olde Williamstown or something. Which is weird because no actual human beings were ever referred to as "colonials." So it actually sounds like you are referring to the style of suburban house. It is a stupid name :)

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Brit's who lived in America when it was still a colony. Our founding fathers were colonials. That's a historical fact that shouldn't be demonized by the frantic whims of a vocal few. I went \$55k into debt because of the persuasiveness of GW's brand legacy, which is so closely tied to shaping American history.

Colonizers

Those who fought the British for American independence.

In the literal sense, I understand this term to mean someone who is inhabiting a colony. But, beyond its literal meaning, this highly contested term carries vastly different connotations to various communities and individuals. To ignore or discount the experience of GW Community members who have been harmed through the global colonial system, and therefore feel extremely uncomfortable with a moniker that positively promotes individuals (colonials) who have perpetuated that system, is unjust and exclusionary.

A person who lived in a colony.

The university's mascot, derived from a term for those who first settled in the American colonies.

Global hegemony

original 13 colonies

Wikipedia: Colonialism is the policy of a country seeking to extend or retain its authority over other people or territories, generally with the aim of economic dominance

proud of our early heritage and the affiliation with the name George Washington

To me the term Colonials means the brave individuals who came to America and worked to establish the United State of America. So many had the patience and drive to debate and work out our foundation for a strong country.

Mascot name. Period of history. History

A person (generally white male, but also female) who was a resident of a colonies that eventually became part of the United States. This term does not include indigenous people who Colonials committed genocide against or the African people and their descendants who were held in bondage by Colonials.

Persons of the colonial era such as university namesake George Washington. In that light, I see it as benign and not inviting of any adversity.

Colonist

Related to the Founding Fathers and the original colonies of the United States. "Colonials" therefore stands for freedom, progress, individualism, equality, and patriotism.

Colonists. Residents of a British Colony. The peers and countrymen of George Washington before the revolution.

Members of a colony/colonies; in the case of GW, the 13 original British colonies in the "New World"

The inhabitants of the first Colonies of our great nation.

A reference to the members of America's founding generation.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Colonizers of America

Old-school term for people who appropriate the property or belongings of others

Someone from the founding 13 colonies

Referring to the early Americans who gained independence from a monarchy

early settlers to America

A reference to soldiers of the Continental Army, harkening back to the American Revolution.

Those who come into countries they have recently found and believe to be theirs and settle there, in the process displacing native populations.

Referring to the patriots that founded the United States.

People who colonized the U.S. and committed atrocities against the indigenous population.

Early settlers who helped establish this country in the original colonies.

Colonials refers to the people who came from Europe and took the land of indigenous people in the Americas centuries ago. Colonizers justified this by dehumanizing and minimizing the lives of indigenous people, claiming they were 'savages' that needed to be saved. Religion was also used as a means to justify colonization.

To me, colonials means the people that formed the US (e.g. George Washington). I also understand the context can be seen as the people who stole lands and enslaved other humans.

Patriots.

People living in colonial America, many who left to flee various forms of persecution in Europe to start a new life. Also, the men and women who formed the basis of the United States.

I understand it to refer to colonialism and that early period of time in American history.

of the original 13 colonies -- early settlers -- which is good and bad... while they may have been pioneers with good intentions (religious freedom, etc.), they did NOT live up to Godly ideals with their selfish and deadly actions

Terrible people who owned slaves and killed indigenous people.

Honoring those who initially formed our country and its time-tested government form and structure.

We use Colonials to represent members of the Continental Army, which fought under George Washington as its Commander-in-Chief during the American Revolution.

An original group or pioneer.

Revolutionary war-era citizens.

Honestly I have never liked this. When I think of colonials I think of only white early immigrants from Europe who took advantage of and/or displaced native Americans and also established slavery in this continent. Not anyone I would want to celebrate.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

For me, the term "Colonials" is another way to refer to the colonists who were a part of the 13 original colonies. "Colonials" evokes the important history of those involved in the founding of the USA--from the Jamestown settlers to the those who played a role in the American Revolution.

....

It has a history of racism and oppression that is unbecoming of our university.

One of George Washington's soldiers- part of Colonial Army

One of the first founders of the US, George Washington's "cohort"

Early inhabitants of the US, the first people to set up colonies on the east coast of the US

Colonists of Great Britain who fought for and won their independence

An explorer who comes to a land to colonize it.

Someone who comes and brutally takes over ones land and displaced the original people. Someone who attempts to put their beliefs and culture onto the original people through violence, abuse and often death.

It is for our founding fathers those who fought and died to make America

I associate Colonials with revolutionaries who were trying to making a better world for people living in the colonies

Because the school is named for GW, colonials means to me the people who came to this country, took a gamble on their future, and worked to found a new country / free themselves from British rule

Racism and xenophobia

Europeans who settled and took over lands already inhabited by natives.

I know it refers to the Revolutionary War, the Colonials being the side that won and founded .

colonialism is the practice of extending authority over or imposing authority over others, especially indigenous peoples. Colonials may exert authority over and control finances, religion, economics, and culture of others.

The people who fought for independence from Great Britain. I believe this is fundamentally from "colonist," which has a connotation of a power that exploits lesser-developed cultures.

Colonizers of a foreign (to them) land, with or without native inhabitants

white settlers/occupiers to North America - opponents of both the British crown AND Indigenous peoples

Here and elsewhere the term "colonial" refers to an oppressive class of people that subjugated the original inhabitants. At GW, our mascot refers to people who broke treaties, committed genocide, and used the labor or enslaved people to further their own economic gain.

Colonizers forcibly and at times underhandedly stealing First Nation lands

GWU

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

What any intelligent person thinks: it references the people of the newly created United States. We were originally British colonies, and hence the first settlers here were colonists. As we fought for independence, Colonials became a nickname for who would become the first Americans. It's a term of respect and historical pride.

Colonizers who take and remain on someone else's personal or communal land. It evokes warfare, death, and reckless force.

Indicates affiliation with Washington's Army, Navy, Marines.

People who lived in the Colonies such as George Washington

The people of the 13 original colonies which later became America.

American revolution name of warriors

I believe this term to refer to the colonists of North America, particularly those that settled what is now the United States and fought for independence from the British monarchy.

George Washington and his contemporaries.

Colonials means the white European settlers who invaded Turtle Island, committed genocide against the Indigenous population, and founded the US on the theft of Indigenous land and the exploited labor of Black folks bought and sold in chattel slavery.

Those sent to establish a colony

Colonials to me means we wanted independence from England and was willing to fight for that independence.

groups of American colonials from the 18th century

With the context of George Washington as founder of our school and as our mascot, colonial is colonist of the original 13 colonies of US. But as colonists, we are imposing on land to which we are not indigenous and on people and projecting views and lifestyles on them. I'm sure we can find a more appropriate demonym for students of GWU!

Colonials is used as a reference to Colonial era America and the people who imagined, established, and developed the United States.

Colonizers

White Europeans who came to America and stole it from the natives

A reference to the colonizers that came from England to settle in America.

Inhabitants of a colony

Similar to colonists. First settlers in the US that fought for their freedom

Founders of the United States, who left Great Britain to create a free country

Founders of the US who established the colonies

The name is a reference to George Washington's Colonial Army (that was fighting AGAINST colonialism).



What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Represents the colonial people who forged our nation.

Colonials as in the colonial army against the British

I always assumed it related to the 13 original colonies which created the basis of the US.

Originalists, Earliest Settlers, Patriots

A nod to those that came to establish a new land, in this case the United States

Owner

It references the people who settled the 13 colonies, but this can also mask the history that they "conquered" others and imposed their own rule

I understand that it is intended to refer to the "Colonial Army" that fought against the English in the Revolutionary War. However, there are two sides to that coin-- that Colonial Army was specifically colonial in nature \*because of the colonization of indigenous territories\* that the English had pursued. The two are inseparable.

I think of it as what residents of the 13 colonies were called before independence from England

the American revolutionary army that fought the British - and/or that fact that Americans were a British colony.

Refers to Americans from the period before independence from England.

An inhabitant of an area.

To me, it means the original settlers of the country.

It represents the Colonial Army during the War of Independence which was commanded by George Washington, for whom the University is named.

Original settlers of the US

First inhabitants from England to form a colony in the Americas. It can also imply colonialism, as in Europeans taking land and resources from exotic, already-inhabited native lands

American colonists circa the Revolutionary War/contemporaries of George Washington

There's no better term for a school in the heart of our nation's capital. To me this is an homage to American independence and the time of George Washington

American Revolution patriots

From the era of George Washington when our country was a colony of England's

The American colonists who formed our country.

colonials is an historic identification of the first colonists of the USA

I had always thought of "Colonials" as the inclusive term for all GW students and alumni.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

An extension of colonialism.

Those who came to and lived in the 13 original colonies and those who lived here after independence from England was won.

All residents of the 13 colonies up to and during the Revolution

It is an honorific for people who sought to impose their world view on others

The troops George Washington lead to free the colonies from British rule.

I associate the term with a long history of violence that continues to have an impact on people's lives today

A term used to describe the name of early American representatives and early patriots.

Patriot/Revolutionary War/Pre-Independence America

People who live in a colony

Beyond the sanitized school-taught beginning of this country as we currently know it regarding the Founding Fathers and other early settlers, "Colonials" also relates to a dark history of colonization that has displaced and disrupted the lives of indigenous peoples worldwide. As an African American woman and descendant of enslaved people in America, "Colonials" also brings to mind that many such people who were colonizers of this land owned my ancestors.

American Colonists that went on to fight in the Revolutionary War and become the United States of America.

Historical group Going to President George Washington times.

Colonial is a term used to describe Europeans who invaded and settled lands from other cultures that were not their own.

Referring to George Washington as a member of the early colonists.

settlers of early US. I don't have an issue with the term as not all colonists were slave holders but, could see where some people have an issue.

Either the people who were colonized and/or the colonizers.

Our founding members of the United States. Those people who came to America and fought for our freedom from England and made us the great country we are today.

Early English settlers of America

Colonizers and those who stole lands from indigenous peoples of the Americas

A reference to colonial army and George Washington

The first thought I have is of colonization. I don't have any connotations of "Colonials" and being part of the GWU community. We're not a Big-10 sports school, "school spirit" in the traditional sense is not why I went to GWU and it's not what I sought out while I was on campus. I trust we can come up with a different mascot name and be just fine.

The colonials were the people who came here and "colonized" the land. They stole the land and murdered the indigenous people who lived there.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

This moniker harkens back to our country's founding as well as the heritage of university as being founded upon the aspirations of our namesake, George Washington.

One who lived in the thirteen colonies in the 18th century that became the United States, similar to George Washington.

Those who established or lived in the US as the thirteen colonies. I.e., The colonists, but "Colonials" sounded better.

Colonials refers to the brave men and women who rose against the British monarchy

Our founding fathers that lived in the original 13 colonies

Referencing the American revolution, those who were the first in America and part of the birth of the nation

The people who fought the British and founded the USA

Early Americans

It's a reference to the original American colonies, and their immigrant inhabitants who fought for independence from Britain. Because George Washington headed the Continental Army which defeated the British, thereby securing our independence, the Colonial moniker is a simple historic tribute to someone who fought for American freedoms.

To me Colonials refers to the colonist of the American Colonies and is a tribute to George Washington.

First settlers to America

I see "Colonials" as the nickname of the GWU sports teams. I see "Colonial" as the period of time when the 13 colonies transformed into the creation of the United States of America.

Colonials were the original people who founded the USA in 1776 and George Washington was our first President.

The settlers who moved to this land from abroad. "Similar to the pioneers".

yes

Colonizers

Individuals and states who seize land owned by others for the consumption of its resources and the settling of its people's.

Group of States that signed the Dec of Indep forming a new country promoting life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

It refers to our forbears, including President George Washington, who fought for and defended this nation at its founding in 1776 and during the Revolutionary War.

That the US was at one point comprised of 13 colonies established by the British Empire. These colonies formed together to separate themselves from British control culminating in the Revolutionary War where America gained its independence.

It means one of the white men that helped found this country. Someone who literally came to this place to propagate a colony.

European settlers in the northern western hemisphere.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Part of the founding fathers of the US

An individual who colonized this country

A colonial refers to someone who is part of a colony, which in my mind is a group of imperialists who moved to a new land and tried to take it over.

A glorification of white invasion and theft of Indigenous land, on the backs of Black slaves.

Representation of a time period.

It is a representation of violence, genocide, and imperialism among other harmful traditions perpetuated by white supremacy. There is no need for us to replicate the genocide of indigenous people and western colonization around the world with this term. It serves no purpose in uniting marginalized groups and drives people away from feeling understood and included.

A celebration of the founding families who struggled and survived a very difficult time to build the foundation of our great country.

Subjugating others in their own land.

It is a reference to the founding fathers / original settlers of the 13 American colonies.

Oppressor

Reference to British subjects who colonized what eventually became the United States.

I realize that the term refers to colonists and the era in which George Washington lived. When I hear the term, I think about being colonized - the conquest of lands and the subjugation of one group of people by another. I grew up in DC and am proud of being an American, but have long felt uncomfortable about the erasure of Native American histories. I am also an immigrant from a nation that was colonized, in turn, by 3 different European powers over nearly 400 years.

George Washington and his contemporaries were colonials before the American Revolution due to them living in the American Colonies.

People from the colonial era

People who lived in a colony

Colonists. Early British colonists in America, yearning to be free.

The brave Colonists living in the 1700s who spearheaded our fight for independence.

Something related to George Washington and those Europeans who first colonized North America

Either colonialism or the British colonial period in the US preceding the Revolutionary War.

Reference to Colonial-era times / George Washington as a critical figure in colonial times

I understand the moniker to mean George Washington led the Continental Army representing the 13 colonies during the Revolutionary War, although I also understand that the word can be triggering for some people

Pride in colonisation. Very negative connotation.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Of or related to the early American colonial age

People who rebelled against the British and served with Gen. Washington in the Revolutionary War.

It is the nick name of our university. You can not rewrite history and all Colonials were not slave holders. Keep Colonials or no donation

Reference to the Patriots who settled our country and fought for its independence from Great Britain.

In the context of the US, early settler of the Americas. Globally, colonial tends to mean foreign conquerer. In that context, very negative perception at this day in age.

The citizens of the colonies of Britain.

Colonials are groups of privileged people, often white, who committed genocide and forced cultural elimination all over the world in areas they deemed as lesser. Our last 600 years of global history has been defined by colonialism in the worst way. Most notably, the trans Atlantic slave trade.

It is inherently linked to settler colonialism which caused the genocide of indigenous people and also caused chattel slavery enslaving Africans and other groups.

Scrappy underdog overcoming insurmountable odds partnered with the leadership of George Washington.

Pertains to George Washington

That GW can trace its history back to the founders of our nation, many of which were of the colonial period and colonials themselves (before independence)

To me, the term simply seems the root of the word "colonization," making it a very unflattering term referring to those who performed colonization on a land or toward a populace, which as a process almost always encompassed oppression, theft, and violence.

Big George and Little George, a patriot-dressed mascot

An American that fought against British rule

The first Americans

A member of a colony or a person establishing a colony

People who lived in the original 13 colonies

British settlers who came to the colonies and drove Native Americans from their land.

The members of original 13 colonies

A group of fighters who disrupt, steal, or violently take away other's land and property.

It can mean different things but since the school is named "George Washington" I understand "Colonials" to refer to those colonists/revolutionaries who rebelled against the British government.

Settlers in America that desired to establish a new nation

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Citizens who were involved with the founding of this country and living in one of the 13 original colonies.

Colonialism, basically. Not a good look going forward.

In reference as GW's moniker, it's a name that comes from US history as we were a colony of Great Britain. Obvious, really.

established when we were colonizing after the war and sometimes it could be referred to slavery, oppression, etc.

Those who colonize another area, for example, European settlers who colonized America (and thereby changed values, culture, land rights, human rights etc. for indigenous communities, often in a violent manner).

It reflects George Washington University as a "moniker" and nothing more.

It pays homage to the first colonizers of America. Those persons who violently displaced the indigenous brown peoples of this land and who stole and bought Africans and enslaved them to build the country that they would for centuries deprive their descendants from enjoying.

Colonizers, invaders. I always thought it was a weird name.

The folks who settled the colonies in what became the United States

A Colonial is a white (European) Englishman who conquered and settled North America and turned it into the USA. A Colonial represents the founding stock (racially speaking) of the USA.

Colonials refers to the early settlers of what became the United States and brings to mind resilience, fortitude, ambition, etc.

European colonists to the Americas

"Colonials" is a term that is attached to our original founding fathers who formed the colonies and gained our liberation from British rule.

Before George Washington defeated the British, America was a collection of colonies. "Colonials" is a proud tribute to Washington and a reminder of the fighting colonists he led to victory without which there would be no independent America. A symbol of freedom.

Referring to the colonists of the original 13 colonies, but also the colonization of the developing world by imperial powers during the 19th and 20th centuries, including the United States

People in the British colonies prior to 1776

Patriots from Rev War

Representative of George Washington and the founders of this country

The people who first colonized North America

refers to the Europeans who came and colonized indigenous American land and people

in reference to GW (and the other early American colonialists)-- after whom the school is named

referring to the European colonists

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

A colonist in colonial America circa the Revolutionary War

Settlers who fought the British for American independence

Refers to the colonial settlers in the U.S. during George Washington's time. 'Colonials' connotes 'white settler', it's time for it to change.

Independence, freedom, American greatness, equality

As regards GW, I associate it with George Washington and our founding fathers who fought in the American revolution to establish the US. Other than that, it's really the Europeans who colonized America.

people migrating from England in the 17th and 18th century relating to the 13 original colonies that eventually formed the United States

A term describing people who colonized America, taking it over from the indigenous.

"Colonials" refers to those who perpetrate colonization.

Revolutionary War time frame name for the American colonies.

The people who came to colonize the country

Those who lived during the time leading up to and including the American Revolution whether or not they participated in actual fighting.

Racist

It is in reference to our historical roots, being in DC, founding of our nation.

People who colonized what we now know as the United States. Their colonization resulted in violence against Native Americans and abuse of African people forced into slavery.

Member of a colony--a colonizer.

patriots who fought for independence from colonial rule.

I think there are two connotations. While I think it originally meant the colonial army of George Washington, the word is today associated with the harmful impacts of colonialism of the the 20th century.

I understand the term "Colonials" to refer to the status of European/colonial peoples to North America, & particularly to the region around GWU. They were "colonials", especially if they were born in the colonies.

Occupiers of land.

Early American settlers who took land by force from indigenous people

Colonizers.

Those that perpetuated years of violence against indigenous peoples across the globe and here in America. Foggy Bottom is on Nacotchtank and Piscataway land.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

General historical reference to those that founded the USA, in the context of 'GW Colonials'.

Settlers

Colonials refers to people in colonial times, when George Washington was alive/active

in the context of sports, it's a harmless mascot. In the context of the US, it's our original soldiers which is militaristic but accurate. In a global context, it feels more like "colonizing" which is not a happy thought.

An individual who inhabits a colony

Early founders of the USA

Someone who colonized a place???

The name 'Colonials' represents the members and soldiers of the Colonial Army in their fight for freedom from oppression by the British. The Colonials were lead by General George Washington in their fight for Independence. Thus the perfect and MOST compelling name for the school named for George Washington.

A reference to white European colonists who stole and settled on Native land. It is offensive and inappropriate for a university mascot.

It's a nickname referencing the 13 colonies that formed the US. Nothing more.

Yes.

Americans who lived during Revolutionary times.

First settlers in a region from another place, who together form a colony

Early Americans, residents of the 13 colonies

Refers to the English colonists who settled in what is now the US.

People who came from Europe to what is now the United States to settle here in the 1600s and 1700s.

The colonials were the British subjects who fought for the right to govern themselves and for freedom from England and the king of England

diverse settlers and immigrants who laid the foundation for the United States, of which the university's namesake was

Represents the GW athletic teams with reference to George Washington as a Colonial leader. I do not follow sports.

Early American settlers who lived in the British colonies prior to them becoming states.

Those who lived, prior to 1776, in what became the 13 original states of the US.

The "Colonials" represents our country's founders who fought for our independence from British oppression.

I really don't think it matters what the term means to me personally. It means something terrible to fellow members of the GW community, and that is enough for me to support a change.



What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Founding fathers and early European settlers.

People who lived under colonial rule

A representation of the founders of our country and the first president.

The people who colonized America.

A term used by the British to refer to American settlers. Also generally used to refer to people who colonized places (such as British settlers in America).

Early Americans - the founders of democracy.

Those who inhabit a colony

White men colonizing, oppressing, and obliterating native people.

Regular and irregular military in the Revolutionary War, fighting on the rebel side

While I understand it was selected in reference to George Washington, colonialism has served to oppress minorities and steal land, resources, and people from the locations that are colonized. The practice can eliminate traditions and institutionalize prejudice against the minorities.

A reference to Americans during Washington's pre-Revolutionary War years

People who lived in the American Colonies.

To me, the term "colonials" means those who colonize, oppress, and assert power over inhabitants of land to control the lands resources, people, government, and culture.

I understand "Colonials" to mean people who colonized an area of land in which Indigenous peoples lived. In the case of George Washington and his counterparts as colonials - and most other colonizers in history - they colonized land that was not theirs, was already occupied, and was a fight to take from the people living there. America has a bad history of not properly acknowledging and atoning past atrocities (e.g. slavery, Trail of Tears, Jim Crow laws, prejudice against women, etc.). Getting rid of the Colonial moniker is a step in the right direction, in terms of removing the positivity around past colonization, recognizing the 'Founding Fathers' had MANY flaws that we should not celebrate, and removing pride from the idea of bullying someone out of their homeland.

Honoring the 13 original colonies that predated the formation of the United States.

In this circumstance, I assume "colonials" refers to European settlers establishing control over another country

Originally, I thought Colonial just meant early settler, but after doing research I found out that Colonials propagated cruelty and myths about Africans and people of color not just in America, but globally wherever white men established new territories.

The American colonists who rebelled against British rule in the American Revolution

Those who were colonized by the British in colonial times and who fought for independence in the American revolution.

To me, "colonials" is directly linked with "colonialism" (because... it's the same word). The U.S. devastated Native American lives and culture under the guise of "colonialism" and still subjugates other people of color in Puerto Rico, Guam, etc. with this system. GWU students and alumni should not be proud to be associated with colonialists at all; it is an embarrassment for me and shows the complete lack of awareness of GW's leadership.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Visionaries who brought forth a new nation dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal and endowed with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

In the context of American history either: (1) the first European residents OR (2) invaders who disrupted the native peoples practices and relationship with the land.

Since we are connected to the president and founding father George Washington, I think of it as a term associated with those things. I used to think of it to mean the soldiers who fought in the revolutionary war besides Washington.

the generations of new Americans who lived in the country with George Washington as president

The colonizers of America

Historically, a resident colonist and a supporter of settling occupied lands through colonialism (imperialism). Colonialism has a long, racist history that still negatively affects everyone today; particularly Black and Indigenous people and communities of color.

It is in reference to the first Europeans that arrived in North America to create various, interdependent settlements. Colonialism is obviously also a reference to colonialism, which of course bears significant meaning in so much as that it represents any level of disruption, interruption, or eradication of indigenous peoples and culture by an outside group looking to permanently commandeer land and resources.

Us, as a university family.

Those who come from another nation to build their own society in another. Often means usurping a native culture. Often romanticized in the U.S. as the country was founded by colonists, but the toll on native cultures is rarely discussed in this context.

Individuals who seek to establish a colony

People who resisted British rule from afar.

The people who came to America from England in the 1700s and, prior to the revolution, the people that occupied the American colonies.

Outdated reference to colonial era, refers to a settler exercising control over a foreign place through violence. Note that George Washington, our namesake, was born in N. America and arguably not even a colonial from a certain perspective.

A person living in a colony.

Persons who colonised

refers to the 13 Colonies in Revolutionary War era America. However, even broader, the word derives from a root term that connotes manifest destiny and the right to subdue people who weren't "civilised" and this was rooted in racism

White Europeans that came to America and disenfranchised Native Americans, removed them from their land, and brought enslaved Africans to this land.

Originally, members of new British colonies in North America.

Colonials is referencing George Washington and his cohort of white male "founders" of the country but broadly it connotes a glorification of the white supremacist project of colonialism which has murdered, displaced, and disenfranchised millions of people over the course of history.

The men who ran the colonies and the revolutionary war

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Leaders of when the United States was colonies of the UK

Representing the people who colonized the United States

White western males colonizing foreign land

The group of people who established the United States of America, the founding fathers

It represents the people of the US at the time George Washington was President.

paying homage to someone who lived during the Colonial times

Recognizing our history and American spirit

Colonials are those who have wrongfully taken control of the rights, land and practices of marginalized groups of people for the good of European colonization.

In the context of GW, it's the name of the school's team. The intent is to be something terrifying, as no one names a team "cotton candy", "nap time" or the "teddy bears".

It is a term of honor referring to the original rebel moniker of the founding government of the US as referenced to by the oppressive British regime which we were fighting to and seeking to establish our independence from.

People who lived in a colony

Denizens of the 13 colonies pre-revolution.

Represents someone who is a supporter of and loyal to our country. A member of the old military.

George Washington and the framers of the country, constitution and DOI. I am very proud of the name and hope it continues to be a representative of our school

People who colonize

Original settlers of the US colonies who fought for freedom and independence.

People who went to other countries/continents and took over the land, claiming it for themselves.

A soldier in the Colonial Army during the Revolutionary War.

The European settlers of North America.

A reference to a person or people who lived in colonies, during colonial time.

The first people who lived in the US after taking over parts of the Eastern Seaboard -- it's indicative of a period of time [powder wigs + shiny overcoats] and a type of person [recent immigrant, empowered to establish a new way of living/ruling, high society]

Yes

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

The bygone days of colonialism.

It is a reference to the White European Christian settlers and their descendants who fought and won the American Revolutionary War.

Perhaps a fighter or warrior

A person who lived in the British colonies in North America

person who lives with others in a colony

An early settler of the US colonies

White settlers pre revolutionary war, fighting the British

The ones who colonize

To me, it is a reference to early Americans. Those that left British rule to seek freedom in a new world.

Colonials are George Washington and The Army of the Potomac which beat back the British Colonizers and their oppressive rule. .

White invaders who steal - land, labor, resources, etc. - from local people of color.

Americans settlers

Colonials = colonizers: mass murderers, rapists, slave traders, and general terrorists.

To me, its simply someone from the Revolutionary era

A reference to George Washington's status as a "colonial" in the eyes of the British as well as a reference to the united colonists that fought for independence.

People who lived in the States prior to the founding of the US (though now that I think about it, it really only means the white people of Western European descent who fit that description.)

Yes

I understand that "Colonials" is meant to refer to people who colonized the land now known as the United States.

Colonizer. First Settlers.

Original settlers

Soldiers from the American revolutionary war

People who lived in the original colonies

It equivocates to the colonizers who "founded" the US - and not in a good way.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

A CELEBRATION of the brave men and women who colonized the USA.

Pioneers

A part of American history. It was our founding identity as early British and German immigrants came to the Americas in the 18th century. It represents our the people that came to establish the original 13 colonies.

People who occupied and took control over the land of other people, usually exploiting the native inhabitants

"Colonials" never really meant anything to me when I was a student at GW. I loved my friends and my professors, but I didn't give a shit about school spirit or sports so I never really associated with the "colonials" monicker. But outside of GW, a "colonial" is pretty much a nice way to say "colonizer". Kind of like getting a colonoscopy but framing it as "casual butt play". To me, the colonials represent a time in American history when we idolized our forefathers in their quest for "free" and "virgin" land that wasn't touched by the oppressive hand of Europe. But we all know (me, mostly from the education I got at GW) that the myths we tell ourselves as Americans are far from the truth. Colonials were loser white Europeans who couldn't get laid in Europe so they had to come to America to "penetrate her virgin plains". But seriously, it just isn't a good word or term and actively misrepresents history and what GW should strive to stand for.

member of original 13 colonies

"Colonials" are groups of individuals who believe they have the power and right to take away another's powers and rights. This term is linked to "colonialism", which by definition is, " the act of one nation controlling another for economic gain". We don't want GW to be associated with such a term, because it doesn't represent GW's community.

Founders of our country.

A colonial settler

A person related to the colonial system of land expansion and theft as perpetrated by international governmental powers, especially pertaining to the European monarchies. A colonial is both an adventurer and a thief.

In GW's context, it was term like patriots that summarized the people fighting against the British crown for independence.

Member of the colonies

The citizen soldiers that fought against the tyranny of British rule

Revolutionary war participants

Colonials is a reference to the white Europeans who came to North America to colonize the continent. George Washington was a descendent of these colonizers and was a resident of the colony of Virginia.

thugs

Our Country's Founders

Colonials refer to the British settlers (including George Washington) who colonized North America in the 1600-1700s and eventually established the United States of America. This was a violent process. The establishment of the British colonies & the United States of America directly led to the murder and displacement of Indigenous people and the enslavement and death of many African people.

Our forefathers, part of the founding of America -- those who settled in the colonies.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Colonists

people who forced their ideas onto others, coercing groups of people to submit to their will.

Those who lived in the 13 colonies in the US (in this context)

Tradition, patriotism, freedom

People from pre-Revolutionary America (represented by a character in 18th-century costume.)

All the men in Revolutionary War and the War of Independence

a person occupying a "colony," or territory that doesn't belong to them

George Washington, colonizer, settler

Those fighting against British forces in the Revolutionary War.

Founding Statesmen

original colonists who conceived a nation, fought a revolution and founded our republic

Colonial is an inhabitant of a colony, in particular, one of the 13 British colonies that became the original United States. It is also part of our legacy of the university.

Those who colonize

Early settlers of the original colonies

People from the colonies

I thought since a George Washington was a colonist, that the moniker came from that.

Someone who lived in the original 13 colonies

I had never thought about it. Clearly relates to Americans prior to the War of Independence.

We have always known the term colonials to refer to people who occupy land that does not belong to them and extend authority and violence over the people to whom it does belong, exploiting its land, people, and their culture in the process.

Refers to the early white colonial settlers of the United States

An inhabitant of a colony (e.g. Thirteen Colonies)

A group of settlers that colonize a specific area.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Colonials has had different meanings to me. While in undergrad at GW, it felt archaic and more like a forced connection or historical reference with little to do with the academic mission or present day institution. As a former study abroad student and staff member, it felt particularly inappropriate and insensitive to the international community that suffers under the still felt effects of colonialism. As a grad student at GW, the term is completely out of touch with the university's recent diversity, equity and inclusion work and value of diversity. My grad school courses focused on decoloniality and often taught theoretical approaches that would heavily critique the use of the term as a university moniker. We need to do better.

Persons who fought in the Revolutionary War against the British.

In the context of GWU, the term is representative of the colonial period of America, when there were 13 original colonies formed from British settlements. These "colonies" eventually separated from Great Britain and after the Revolutionary War established the foundation for the United States of America. This usage of "Colonials" is in no way meant to be associated with the global colonialism that was in place at the time and certainly not with the oppression that often resulted from such activity. To combine the two is neither factual nor logical. A colonial in America evokes the image of the courageous Minute Man who left family and farm to defend the citizens against foreign invaders, the very wise founding fathers who framed a Constitution to form the basis of this new country, and of course, Gen. George Washington, the first and wise leader of the new nation. This era of "counter-culture" should not become a weapon to falsely destroy what those that came before us worked hard to establish. Attributing modern ideas and fancies to the past is not only immoral, but unethical. I would bet that most of those calling for this moniker change are idealistic young people that have been misled by a few radicals who seek to eat away at the fabric of America.

A person who came to spread European ideals, often through force.

People that were part of the colonization of the original thirteen colonies

The founding citizens of our country.

The. Colonists in British North America who rebelled against the crown and fought under General George Washington during the American Revolution

The original colonists in the USA

Americans who lived in the 13 original colonies.

The occupants of the Colonies who turned to George Washington to lead them to freedom from oppressive British rule.

People who were part of the original 13 colonies.

The people (of all races, genders, sexual prefs, etc.) who risked their lives to separate from the British and establish this country, however imperfect the U.S. may have been in the past or may be in the present or the future.

Colonials==colonialists

More narrowly, members of the Continental Army. More broadly: colonizers, which is quite pejorative

A term honoring the heritage of the United States as having been founded by folks who by and large were fleeing poverty and persecution, seeking a better life in a new land, and who went on to found a country based on a set of ideas that have inspired generations.

The first Europeans who settled in the current day US and fought against the British to gain independence.

The colonials were both pioneers and invaders who dominated native peoples.

Founders

Colonial Americans—primarily white people of English descent.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

In reference to colonial origins of the US state.

Describing the immigrants that populated the American Colonies.

In the GW context, I would say it refers to the settlers of North America prior to the founding of the U.S.

A reference to the time period surrounding when George Washington was in power

Colonials goes along with the term "Colonizer" although not all colonials intentionally colonized the US, as some of them were simply brought over by their families/spouses, the term carries a heavy weight of destruction with it and the negative attributes of the Columbus Exchange which started all of the colonization of the "New World". Colonials does not represent the student population at GW, we are accepting, full of life and new ideas and innovation, excited to change the world for the better. Having our student population/alumni/faculty/staff held back because of the tie to the word "Colonial" is a disservice to the GW community as it represents a lot of regression rather than progress.

The beginning, someone who is adventurous and takes a risk to start a new home in a strange and dangerous land.

I understand Colonials to be the soldiers in George Washington's army.

White supremacy and taking BIPOC land

Descriptive of Americans during the pre and post Rev War period. The American colonies residents; the Colonial army, etc

Those who formed a union to fight off a monarchy and establish a country

A group of settlers who colonized another location to create a colony, primarily for European nations including Portugal, the United Kingdom, Spain, France and Belgium.

Colonizers. An idealization of a time when people stole land from others whom they slaughtered in order to set up their own country.

People living in the American colonies in the (pre-)revolutionary period. This has a special association with our independence as a country and those who sought it and fought for it.

those individuals who settled in North America during the early 1600 and 1700's prior to the American Revolution

A resident of the original 13 colonies of Great Britain. These colonies declared independence and became the United States.

GW is a proudly racist institution.

Reference to the history of the Founding of the US...

A symbol of our founding fathers and the brave men and women who fought in the revolution and established our country.

Those that settled America

The GW community

The term 'Colonials' in the context that our moniker evokes are people who first settled in North America \*from Europe\*. That is an important distinction. Colonials understood this land to be theirs, engaged in deplorable acts against indigenous native populations, decimated cultures, and brought trans Atlantic slavery, as we study it in our coursework today, to the America's.



What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

The people, other than Native Americans, living in North America from first settlement through the American Revolution.

people living on stolen land because they find themselves deserving based on race.

Colonials refers to the American "colonists" who fought (Under George Washington's leadership) in support of their Declaration of Independence.

Early European Settlers to the Americas.

White settlers who committed genocide against Native and Indigenous populations.

A reminder of the violent and racist colonization of the Americas by white European colonizers, the destruction of the Native peoples and their cultures and customs.

Term to describe the inhabitants of the 13 original colonies.

the people of European descent who colonized the 13 original colonies

Colonizers of America

A Colonial, would be someone who Colonialized a country. Might need to change in the current political climate!

the revolutionary war militias in MD and VA

A member of Britain's 13 colonies in America

The settlers in the USA from England and other parts of Europe that were escaping religious and economic persecution

People who were members of a colony (in this case, a British colony)

Minuteman reference

Early settlers

Americans who fought in the Revolutionary War

Those that colonized other countries

It refers to the 13 colonies and the Continental Army at the time of the American Revolution.

I associate it with the ancestors that gave birth to our nation and forged a revolution.

Europeans who conquered minority groups and stole land

Name for people who lived in a colony

Settlers, though most often at the expense of the locals.

First American Soldiers who fought to establish our country.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Another name for the Continental Army

The American colonists prior to the Revolution

Revolutionary era resident of the Original 13 American Colonies

A resident of the American colonies prior to the American revolution.

The people like George Washington and others who migrated to the Americas which was found on another people's stolen land.

First Americans who lived in the 13 colonies...with a patriotic connotation. Founders.

Colonials referenced a group of people who colonized America and displaced and killed native Americans.

GW mascot, people around the time of the Revolutionary War, people who take over other countries

Colonials or colonists are colonizers of a land that wasn't theirs. I understand the violent and genocidal history of colonials who would be the ones committing the acts and necessitating colonization, even just passively.

Belonging to the colonies. Seems most aligned with white people who made up the original colonies in the US.

The affliction of the population of the original 13 English colonies

People who come to colonize a place, often with flagrant disregard to the indigenous population of the place. In the context of the team, means a group that will dominate another group.

Founder of our country

I don't get why a school claiming that it was at least in part chartered by congress would use the term colonials. It makes no sense to me.

George Washington was a Colonial in America before it was the United States.

Invasion, colonialism

I understand it to reference the North American British colonists who subsequently rebelled and formed the United States.

In this instance, the founders of our country pre revolution

This is an odd question. I understand that Colonials is the name of GW's mascot. On the other hand, I also understand the term colonial to have historical connotation of colonialism and imperialism (both of which continues to impact communities around the world)

A person that lived in or part of a colony.

Europeans who settled colonies and ultimately rebelled against European control

Revolutionary War soldiers, the good guys

Term identifying those who fought for American independence from Great Britain.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Belonging / living in a colony

An oppressive reference to white people from Europe who killed the natives in this country for their own gain.

People who colonized the US, previously thought of as closer to "founding fathers" but now think of those who took what wasn't theirs with little respect or attribution for who was here first.

The rebels led by President Washington in the 18th century

relating to colonists, specifically the British coming to the US

The colonial army who George Washington led to defeat the British and win America's freedom.

A reference to founding fathers-era American politicians

Violence against Indigenous people, colonizers

someone who inhabits a "colony" but doesn't fully belong and have the full rights that other groups have

Those who go to other countries and establish residence

a native or inhabitant of a colony

Those people who came to what should become the US and lived in and created the US colonies and eventually fought for freedoms from England

Referring to George Washington and the Colonial period.

People who infiltrated lands and oppressed indigenous people to enrich European countries and companies

Someone with a pioneering spirit; a leader

Historical term for groups who relocated to a new territory and set up colonies. Such as the "13 original colonies."

People controlled by another country.

yes

Two things: early settlers who fought the British in the Revolutionary War; people who conquered and oppressed other countries

A reference to the Continental Army, which won independence for the 13 British Colonies in the US.

The group of people who helped to settle the United States. "Colonial America."

GW mascot. Tradition. Legacy. Branding.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

It's a deeply painful and terrible history that a university that prides itself on building the next generation of leaders should be extremely concerned with identifying as. There is nothing glamorous about being a colonizer. Synonyms for Colonials are: rapists, murderers, thieves, oppressors, white supremacists. Young people of the future won't want to associate with GWU if we keep this name. It's time for positive change. Identifying as a colonial was never part of my college experience. I came to GWU to study in one of the top international relations programs in the country, to work at the Multicultural Student Services Center and build the foundations of a future where war, oppression; and pain have no place.

People who lived in the American colonies while under British control (more commonly colonists), or things pertaining to the time period.

The first European inhabitants in America

People or group from a nation state or entity wishing to extend or grow the nations economic and social influence by controlling or directing a dependent region, territory or land. Colonials are colonizers and part of a colonization movement. For GWU, I understand Colonials to represent a direct association with the colonization of the US by the British and subsequent militia groups that represented the Continental Army in the war for independence.

A resident of the 13 colonies who fought against the British rebelling against the Empires government, rules, taxes and lack of representation.

A reference to the early history of our nation and its association with GWU's location in Washington.

Those European immigrants who came here to populate the colonies.

American Revolution. English colonies. The American colonists.

Yes

The generation of founding Americans in the new world, who prided themselves on establishing a new way of life that cherished the rights of all Americans.

Referring to colonists, European settlers in America. Founded first colony at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607. Led to founding of the USA.

Those who founded America

Founders of our great country, our forefathers.

Homage to a colonial era

A people colonizing a place. For a long time, it conjured imagery of the pilgrims, a simple time, not necessarily unpleasant (I am also a white person. For a person of color this may conjure up very different imagery)

Pilgrims, slave owners

Great name for school athletic teams

Colonists that conquered and lived in the original 13 colonies by claiming land previously occupied by Native Americans.

I'm honestly not sure. I think it's supposed to harken back to Colonial America, but the word itself really doesn't mean anything in particular to me.

Those associated with the time period America attempted to gain independence from Britain.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Colonials were people occupying the original thirteen colonies that eventually became the United States. The Colonial Army was the army fighting for independence from the British.

Colonials as in those that rebelled and fought the British for independence. Moreover, this is a stupid, short-sighted and wasteful effort. . . I think many of my fellow alums are too afraid to say so in public forums for fear of recourse (though if your form is truly anonymous- you would not see my user information, IP/address, etc.) That being said - I am willing to hear out the arguments but no more oxygen should be given to this issue. GW would be advised to go after and invest in more urgent and pressing concerns in the broader community like helping with the pandemic or providing projects and relief for the massive social/economic inequality that persists in the city. If the 'Colonials' is canceled by cancel culture - please gawd do not give us a freaking 'Hippo' as the new mascot - that was another epic failure by a previous University President . . . Besides - that would upset or offend the other animals in the animal kingdom like lions, cheetahs, and so forth.

The GW mascot, as a tribute to George Washington and the colonial settlers and revolutionaries.

person who fought during that time period

The Founders of our nation resided in the British Colonies and revolted against Colonialism to form a free country

Well, it's the people who came to "colonize" America and thus ended up destroying the people who lived here originally and enslaved the others who they brought over against their will.

I believe that the intent of the moniker is to convey an association to the Continental Army led by George Washington. However, intent is different from impact, and monikers and mascots should be subject to change.

While a reference to the 13 original colonies that fought for independence under the leadership of namesake Gen George Washington, Colonial has a general connotation of imperialism and oppression and in the case of the U.S. SLAVERY, which cannot be ignored or mitigated by whatever the intentional use of the term may be.

The first established community of American settlers

Referring to someone who lived in the colonies around revolutionary time

For the school it's being used as a mascot and general term for the students

the British who established the American colonies

Founding citizens of the US living in the original colonies.

A historical reference to a certain subset of the people who, in the 17th and 18th centuries, emigrated from Europe to the 13 colonies which eventually became the United States.

A group of people enacting oppressive, violent takeovers of indigenous lands and peoples in support of selfish and greedy objectives

George Washington's Colonial Army

colonization

Pioneers, but also, essentially, imperialists. Revolutionaries, but also oppressors.

The inhabitants of the the 13 colonies that declared independence from the UK and ultimately formed the United States.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

It refers back to the history of the school and George Washington. We shouldn't be ashamed of the fact that we're were American colonies who rebelled against the largest colonial power at the time, and won. It's a kickass mascot if you think about it.

Tri-cornered hat-wearing patriots who fought in the Revolutionary War.

At a basic level, people who placed themselves on pedestals and were disruptive and damaging to other groups. In today's world, the word reminds me of all the ways in which the playing field is not level within and outside of the US for minority groups.

The people who lived in the 13 American colonies of England prior to the War for Independence.

People who moved into other people's land and assert, or attempt to assert, control

A tribute to the first settlers of our country (the first colonies that later comprised our USA) and the boldness and resolve it must have taken to accomplish such a feat.

The first people who came to this country from England

A group that systemically murdered and oppressed people in the pursuit of personal profit

The founding fathers and others who fought for US independence.

The group of individuals who fought for freedom and democracy during the American Revolutionary War. They proudly fought under George Washington against the tyranny of Great Britain.

Referring to Colonial America.

Founding Fathers

Represents the great people who colonized the original 13 colonies, took great risks, suffered hardships, and fought the British to break away from England and form the greatest country the world has ever seen.

Those participating in settler colonialism

Colonizers

from the colonial period 1776

Free people who lived in the Colonial-era United States; implying a painful contrast with slaves and those who only experienced the rights of second-class citizens. It also has a slippery association with "Colonizer"...

Europeans who took away the land, its resources, and expelled its native inhabitants for their own self-interest

American founders like our great first US President, George Washington.

Oppression, genocide, violence

I understand it to mean a member of the "colonizers"—which have enslaved and mistreated various indigenous groups.

The name of GW's athletic teams, a general descriptor for GWU students and a matter of some controversy

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Historical figures like George Washington

I mostly think of it as a description of a population but I can see its negative connotation.

No major meaning, just a Knick name like Yellow Jackets o Bulldogs

Represent individuals during George Washington's period of the American Revolution.

A colonial is a person that came from England and formed colonies on the eastern seaboard of the United States in the early and mid seventeenth century.

American freedom; our Country's history and heritage; symbol of strength and resilience; symbolizes George Washington and the University's connection to him

Colonists, the first group of English to arrive in North America.

Citizens of the 13 original colonies before the U.S. was a country independent from England.

Someone from the American colonies

genocide against Native folks

While I know it refers to the "original" American settlers and is meant to honor that history, "colonial" indicates the act of colonization and therefore the act of taking/stealing land from other already settled groups and imposing one's way of life and rules onto those people, often unwillingly. It often is associated with crimes of rape, pillage, murder, and discrimination. Being an American colonial has been wrongly glorified, attempting to erase the importance of Native American culture and history.

Of the founding society of the united states

Colonials are the people who started the development of our country. They set up the initial structure to which the United States is built on.

Class of white settlers who committed genocide in order to establish colonies, which in turn committed more genocide

The peoples who came from Europe to settle in North America before the founding of the United States.

White settlers from Europe who colonized North America.

White Europeans who went to Africa, Asia, and Latin/South America to colonize regions. Often associated with genocide and imperialism.

It is a reference to the inhabitants of British North America before the Treaty of Paris and the ratification of the Federal Constitution. Among other names, the troops who fought under George Washington were known as Colonials.

A term that carries with it a history of racism, slavery, exploitation, genocide, etc.

Continental soldiers

Colonial is derived from "colonies", the 13 original colonies.

Colonial Americans

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Country bumpkins

Founding father

People who settled America

Shorthand for those colonists who lived in America during the time we were still 13 colonies of England. A nod to our founder and namesake George Washington.

Represent American revolutionaries that fought against an oppressive British empire

pre-1776 americans

American patriots

I'm a white male, and so I understand that my association may be biased, but I understand it to mean, essentially, a resident of the original 13 British colonies.

I will grant that the term is loaded with different meanings, but context matters. When attached to GW, I take it as a reference to the 13 colonies.

Colonizers, imperialists, exploiters, murderers, rapists, thieves

Early Americans associated with the era of the original colonies and George Washington.

The Brave Men who founded our Country

Founders and the people living in the US in colonial times.

Individuals who lived in the Britain's 13 colonies in North America and/or who participated in the Revolutionary War.

British Citizens who lived in North America before the Revolutionary War.

A term for the original Americans pre revolution, of which George Washington was a member

Members of an early American culture whose men wore tricornered hats and symbolized resolve for establishing a democratic society.

I have always understood it to refer to citizens of the 13 Colonies.

A colonial a person who lived in the colonies that would be come the United States; founders of our GREAT nation.

As used, Members of the Continental Army fighting in the War of American Independence. For people unfamiliar, people from a foreign country exploiting the land and indigenous people for material gain.

I understand that in the context of GW it is referring to those who lived in the colonies of America and fought against the British, but on first hearing for pretty much anyone else on the planet it sounds like someone who is from the colonies

Individuals of European birth who came to what is today known as North America in the 1600s, took the land from indigenous people, and populated it along with African slaves torn from their homeland.



What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Historic, colonialism

The formation of our country, the uniting of the original 13 colonies to form the United States. Certainly nothing racist about it.

Native or inhabitant of a land or 'colony;' also referring to a time period in early American history

The British who arrived in the United States and set up the government.

Inhabitants of the original 13 colonies.

Residents of the British colonies in North America outside of Canada prior to July 4, 1776

Part of US history focused on the "original colonies"

Colonists

Those who served on American side during American Revolution. People who sought independence from England.

Participants in settler-colonialism and a term that describes George Washington's military career as part of the English militia system (French and Indian War), but not as POTUS or as part of the American Revolution for which he is celebrated.

People from a colony.

The term is inclusive of all men & women of all races & religions who lived in the colonies of the New World prior to the establishment of the United States. Were they perfect? No, but they deserve our gratitude for developing the foundation of our nation.

Europeans who slaughtered Indigenous people and pillaged their land. People who claim land and territories that do not belong to them, based on unfounded sense of entitlement. Those who believe that only they and others like them have natural rights.

A reference to George Washington's colonial revolutionaries which later became the Continental Army

The soldiers of the Continental Army, who fought against the British during the American Revolutionary War. Since some 5,000 to 15,000 (and possibly more) were Black or American Indians, the term is racially INCLUSIVE, not exclusive.

American colonists

Members of a pre-existing nation settling on non-adjacent lands that they did not originally own, usually at the expense of any native civilizations.

European colonizers of North America in the 17th and 18th centuries; oppressors of the indigenous peoples of our continent.

A reference to residents of the Colonies before the Revolution

Residents and citizens of North America while under the control of England who later fought to establish independence from England and unite all of the areas into one nation supporting human rights, basic freedoms, acceptance of diversity and self-reliance. Showing respect and appreciation for those individuals who fought for independence so we would have a better life.

Group of people ruling over a territory.

The original colonists who first settled this country.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

It references the founding generation of our nation, which our university namesake was part of.

A friendly and benign, and totally inoffensive, nod to the proud history of America, including our namesake president George Washington, and Special location in the US capital City.

Term for pre-Revolutionary War citizens of the British posesions in North America.

GW's athletic teams

People who travel from their homes to a new home for the purpose of developing and establishing the new location as their new nation.

An individual who resided in a colony. In the context of GWU it represents the group of colonists who sought to break away from England and govern themselves. They were the original American patriots.

People living in the continental United States prior to/during the official founding of the country. Ranging from 1650-1800

Colonials = colonizers/ colonialism

It refers to the British settlers who colonized what is now the U.S.

Those persons that inhabited the lands of the colonies.

The Americans.

A group of individuals fighting for the cause of American freedom.

I assume it is a memory of America's colonial history.

A native or inhabitant of a colony.

It is the name of the University's athletic teams and is sometimes used to refer more broadly to students and graduates of GWU. No sensible person gives it a literal meaning.

The Colonial Army which beat the British.

The founding settlers of the colonies that united to become the United States of America

A representation of the North American colonists pre-revolution.

Colonials is understood to mean Europeans who engaged in settler colonialism in the Thirteen Colonies. Although American society and education system has generally sanitized the settlement of this country, my education in college and elsewhere has reminded me the amount of violence towards Indigenous peoples and Black people that colonization has done. We should not further sanitize or belittle these claims by making it a nickname.

Colonialism, specifically imperial power over non-white countries and the resulting violence and inequality.

People who left their country to settle another. It's not the most aggressive term I've heard but I would say the connotation is generally negative today. I don't need another white man to "represent" me.

Having a connection to the time around the founding of our country.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Residents of the British colonial states in America prior to the American Revolution

I think of Colonials as the British subjects who first came to North America and forged The beginnings of a new nation, the United States of America.

Colonials are the settlers who came from England to the USA.

I understand "Colonials," in this context, to refer to the brave men and women of all races who fought with George Washington during the American Revolution.

Those from Britain who settled the colonies.

The men and women who overthrew the British rule of America

Early settler of the continental United States who is of European origin

An historic period in American history with which George Washington was associated. The Colonials fought for the cuntry's independence.

The term "Colonials" refers to the regular and rag-tag civilian militia soldiers that bravely risked death, dismemberment, and imprisonment fighting the most powerful military force in the world at that time in history to earn their freedom from an oppressive King in Great Britain. General George Washington commanded this Continental Army of "Colonials" (representative of all races and ethnicities) against all odds to win a victory in support of the American Colonies' Declaration of Independence, creating a brand new nation called the "United States of America." That's pretty exciting stuff and I definitely see the positive and spirited connection between a university named in honor of it's most famous general and elected as the first President of the United States of America!

Reference to our Founding Fathers

Colonists, ie, white European colonizers

Reference to Americans colonists

One who colonizes something that was not originally one's originally

The people who were integral to the founding of the United States aka Founding Fathers.

The people who started the country

Racist pillagers who stole land from natives and killed them mercilessly

Referring to the early united states colonials at the time of the American revolution.

Colonials is derived from the word colony. A colony of people. I think of the American Colonials during the American Revolution times.

Colonials is a moniker or "nick name" for students, alumni, faculty and staff of George Washington University just as Mountaineers is a "nick name" for those associated with West Virginia University.

Pre-Revolutionary and Revolution era American settlers

Of or pertaining to the people of the original colonies / the people who inhabited the precursors to the current United States of America and fought to make it our country.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

The men and women who settled this country and fought for its independence from England.

Homage to George Washington and other colonial patriots that fought in the Revolutionary War.

Residents of the 13 British colonies that became the United States of America, or to their period.

I understand, as used by the University, the term reflects the inception of the nation as a political entity, as in the original 13 colonies. I never presumed it was meant as the subjection of native Americans or any similar stretched attributes subsequently associated with the colonization.

Individuals of the colonial era who settled on land that was already inhabited by Native peoples, forcing them out of their homes and leading to centuries of strife.

Settlers who displaced native people through violent means and stole their land.

Individuals occupying the first colonies during America's infancy

The colonists who fought to overthrow a despotic rule and gained freedom and independence that has become an example for the world.

Colonials are persons who lived in Colonial Times>

Revolutionary Americans

Colonizers of indigenous people

A positive representation of our heritage

Person who takes another's land by force to extend the land holdings of the nation to which that person belongs.

Residents of 13 colonies

GW mascot

Original settlers of the United Kingdom colonies

The colonizers of the United States, particular European colonial powers and peoples. Colonization led to the displacement and genocide of indigenous peoples. Colonization was part of the enslavement of African people.

Reference to America's early settlers.

I most closely identify it with GW, then connect it to the 13 colonies that were the birth of our country. From a historical and cultural perspective lastly, I think about the idea of colonization of peoples and lands by dominant world powers.

The people who help form the original 13 colonies.

Let's be clear: this is NOT an issue of what the GW community "understands" the term "Colonials" to mean. This is an issue of how the word is used in the world at large. Regardless of whether the term conjures up the idea of GW sports (which, frankly, it is unlikely to do outside of GW), it still carries the additional, and likely primary, connotations of colonialism, which globally is a deeply problematic idea. Even if we were to assume that the term might be seen as only relating to the original thirteen British colonies in America, this still denotes a time period when slavery was legal, the indigenous population of the Americas was being pushed out or slaughtered, and British women had few rights. Additionally, what is now the United States did not actually exist - the European population of the British colonies was not actually American.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

An individual from one of the thirteen colonies and by extension to the "Colonial" period.

I do not take to heart the Colonials moniker as pejorative. I feel it in the broader sense makes a statement as a group of people, a colony, as pioneers on a chosen frontier. GWU offers these kind of experiences and opportunities. This is what I would like to continue to see reflected in our name and brand. I believe we should rebrand and reinvigorate what Colonials means giving that definition strong meaning of inclusion and community purpose instead of giving power to and acquiescence to the pejorative.

Colonials refers to our proud heritage of having our University named for George Washington who was one of the most important men of the Colonial era and showing our respect for that time period in our American history. The term has nothing to do with the current desire to change or remove the foundations of our rich history and certainly does not reflect any feelings of disrespect for any segment of our current population. Changing our long standing nickname will do nothing to improve the situation of any segment of our population.

British subjects in the Thirteen Colonies before the Revolution

Colonials means someone who came from another country to settle in a different country, using force or other means. In the context of GW, especially based on the look of the former mascot, it seemed like the university was going for a personification of George Washington.

One that colonizes -- illegally stealing and settling land owned by indigenous people.

It's a reference to soldiers who fought in George Washington's army for during the fight for independence from England

Reference to the 13 colonies and founding of America?

Historical

named for founding fathers

The founders and immigrants who first populated the newly found colony of America were colonials. The forces which wrested the colonies from the control of Great Britain, were made up of colonials. The people who wrote the Constitution were colonials. George Washington was a colonial. As an OWG, I take no offense to the Colonial moniker. I am uncertain as to the alleged offense this moniker might hold for those driving this project of destruction and memory erasure. I will remember and treasure the name of my alma mater's teams. So I guess as long as I'm alive, I will continue to to offend the group dejour who feels their existence is compromised by the history of the university, indeed, the universe. Also note the use of skewed superlatives for the "survey" makes me understand the driving force of this effort is change at any cost, supported by the leftist ideals of the elitists of "higher" education. I am saddened by this waste of energy and funds.

A moniker for European settlers in America—primarily those opposed to British rule.

Other

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

patriots

The term is used to represent our forefathers who courageously, endeavored to create a nation separate from the imperial rule of England. These forefathers should be revered and honored for creating the greatest country on the face of the earth.

Residents of America's 13 colonies

Colonials broadly describes the many poor, hard working immigrants who came to North America searching for religious freedom, independence from tyranny and economic opportunity. Colonial families and communities were industrious and brave risk-takers who built the foundation of the U.S.A.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

In the sense of America those that fought against the British - against the remote 'colonizers' who no longer represented their interests. In a general sense colonials were those that opened up new lands / territories to their native countries- this can be good or bad depending on perspective, however I do not believe this term has 'sunk' to the level of other terms that are viewed in a derogatory light I believe it is more a convenience to keep the narrative going

OG

The original founders of US

The first Americans after 1776

The American colonists who fought to protect their homes

Revolutionary Soldiers that fought to gain independence from the British to create a free society and from the shackles of tyranny of government and allow religious freedoms.

Our University's nickname based on patriotic U.S. general and our country's 1st President—all POSITIVE stuff!

I understand the debate on the moniker, but I withdrew from GWU a few months ago specifically for this reason: over-sensitivity to history and the stretching of something until history itself is obliterated or rewritten, causing it to not truly be "history" anymore at all.

Early arrivals from England- some coming to North America to escape religious persecution...

white supremacy and colonization

Native of the Colonies and loyal to George Washington in opposition to The Crown.

It's a team name

A group of people leaving their native country to form a new land....also recently co-opted to colloquially mean a group of people taking over land with little regard to natives or other community member

George Washington and others who colonized the new world and made a better life for themselves and future generations

Yes

A badge of honor for General Washington. They called us the colonists! It wasn't a compliment, we use it a a signal that we broke away.

Early settlers or pioneers

In the American context, it refers to the inhabitants of the 13 original colonies, and especially those who supported freedom from British rule.

A depiction of George Washington, Founding father

Original inhabitants of a country.

Native

Folks that lived in this country under the rule of the English. They lived in the Colonies that were ruled by the King of England.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Colonial refers to the people who were living in the united states during the revolutionary War, many of whom fought for our independence.

People from other countries who appropriate land (through violence) from indigenous people and establish control over it.

The British people who created the 13 original colonies of the US. The "team" spirit of the GW family

Being part of a community (a "colony")

Colonials to me are the Americans who were against the British during our War for Independence.

A colony

The 13 British colonies that became the US

First settlers in the British colonies

Someone who fought against the English colonizers with George Washington

The founders of the United States of America

Yes

In this context it is "a team with historical roots in the Nation's Capital"

People who founded our country and fought against the British in the Revolutionary War

The people who fought for their freedom from England to establish the great country we have today.

Colonial time period

People from other places (mostly Europe) came to places not in Europe and took over, driving away the native population and exploiting the human and natural resources of the land.

A reference to early American settlers.

Reference to George Washington etc. You should just change it to "Revolutionaries" and get the same idea across with no baggage.

Yes

The title for a British colonist who eventually desired American independence from England.

People who lived in colonies during early civilizations/conquering of civilizations.

The forces which Geo. Washington led, from the POV of the Brits.

A harkening back to George Washington's troops

Those immigrants who traveled to the US to start & settle in a new place in the 1600s/1700s. I view Colonials as the early settlers.

What do you understand the term "Colonials" to mean?

Colonizers, first European settlers of the US -- negative connotation, especially in a competitive environment as it implies that the colonials were strong in taking over the new world which included mass slaughter

The group of people who first colonized the US and formed our country.

Early settlers

The group of Europeans that come to what is now called the United States in the 1700's and settled here.

It is a harmless nickname that celebrates our nation's birth

It is an historical reference to the folks who came to America's colonies.

Colonials represents our founding fathers who were originally part of the British Colonies.

Colonists of the 13 original colonies

Quest for freedom, individuality and a better life in America.

Come on, it means people who colonize a territory or land.

Just what the dictionary says. Stop making this more than it needs to be.

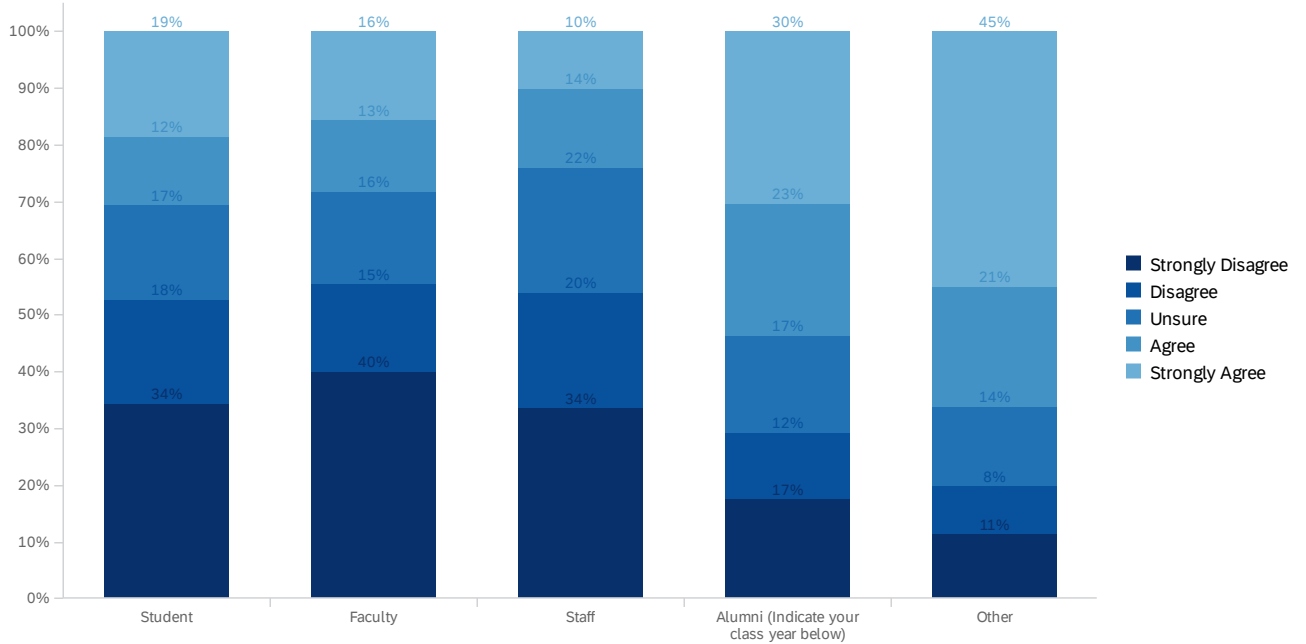
Patriot



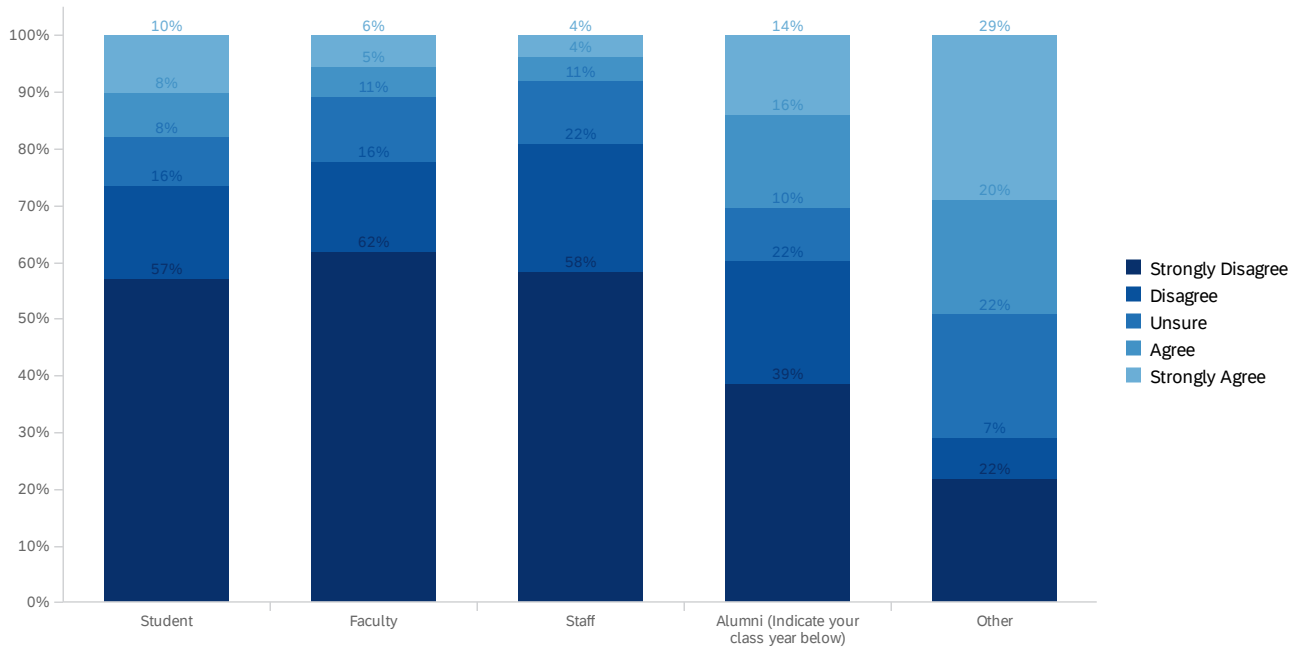
## Q6 - Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following

statements.

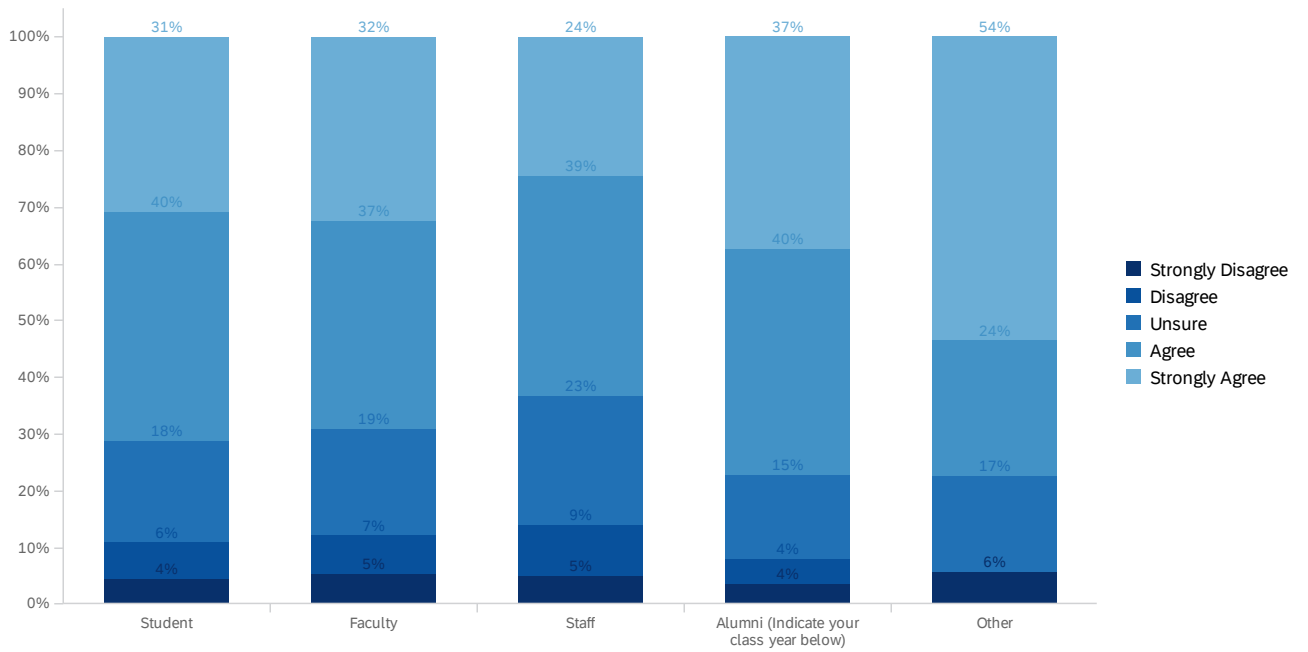
I feel included by the use of the "Colonials" moniker.



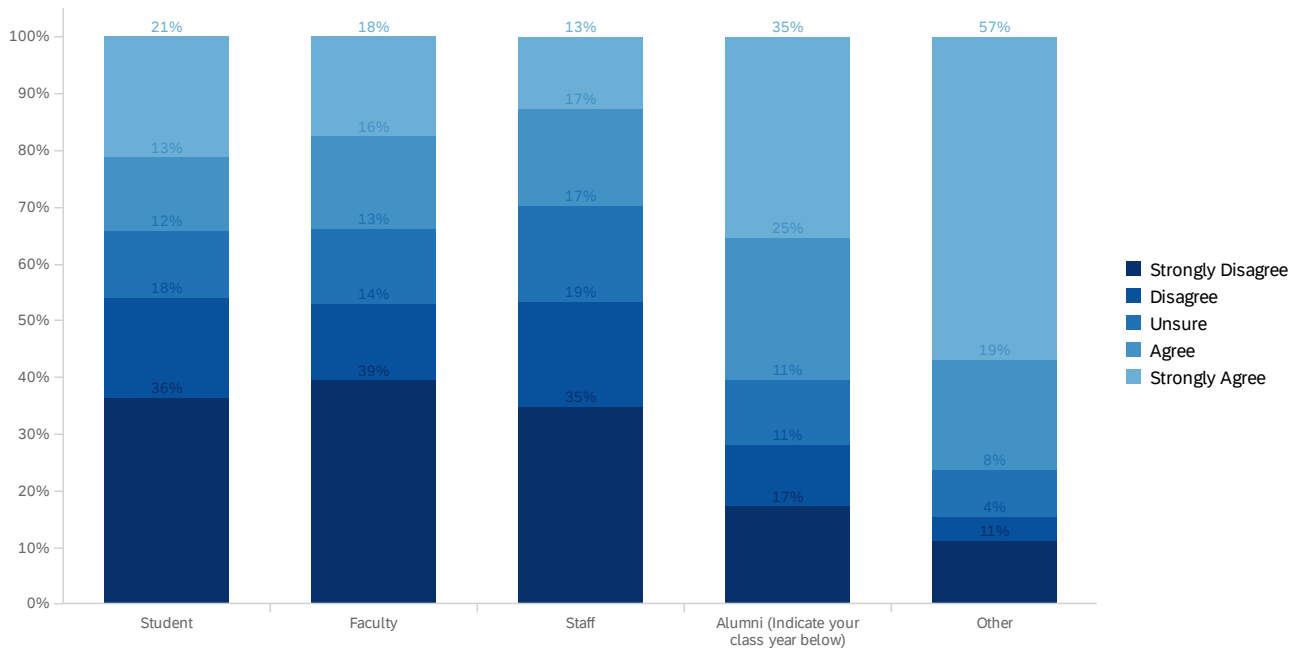
The "Colonials" moniker is/was essential to my GW experience.



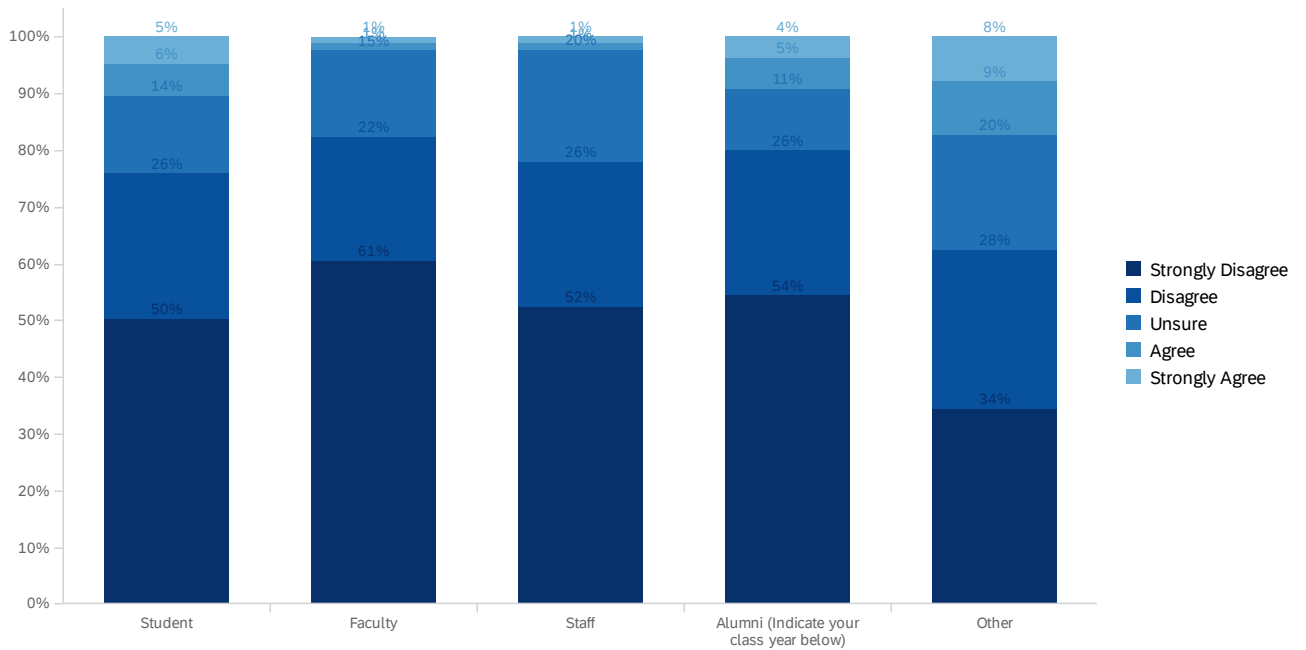
I understand the meaning behind the "Colonials" moniker.



In terms of sports, I can rally for the "Colonials" moniker.



The "Colonials" moniker affected my decision to attend GW.



I feel included by the use of the "Colonials" moniker.

| Field             | Student | Faculty | Staff  | Alumni (Indicate your class year below) | Other | Total |
|-------------------|---------|---------|--------|---|-------|-------|
| Strongly Disagree | 47% 870 | 7% 130  | 7% 125 | 38% 704                                 | 0% 8  | 1837  |
| Disagree          | 43% 465 | 5% 50   | 7% 76  | 44% 472                                 | 1% 6  | 1069  |
| Unsure            | 34% 423 | 4% 53   | 7% 82  | 55% 689                                 | 1% 10 | 1257  |
| Agree             | 23% 309 | 3% 41   | 4% 52  | 69% 942                                 | 1% 15 | 1359  |
| Strongly Agree    | 26% 471 | 3% 51   | 2% 38  | 67% 1227                                | 2% 32 | 1819  |

Showing rows 1 - 5 of 5

The "Colonials" moniker is/was essential to my GW experience.

| Field             | Student  | Faculty | Staff  | Alumni (Indicate your class year below) | Other | Total |
|-------------------|----------|---------|--------|---|-------|-------|
| Strongly Disagree | 42% 1450 | 6% 199  | 6% 216 | 45% 1555                                | 0% 15 | 3435  |
| Disagree          | 29% 418  | 4% 51   | 6% 83  | 61% 871                                 | 0% 5  | 1428  |
| Unsure            | 31% 216  | 5% 37   | 6% 41  | 55% 384                                 | 2% 15 | 693   |
| Agree             | 22% 201  | 2% 17   | 2% 16  | 73% 663                                 | 2% 14 | 911   |
| Strongly Agree    | 29% 257  | 2% 18   | 2% 14  | 65% 564                                 | 2% 20 | 873   |

Showing rows 1 - 5 of 5

I understand the meaning behind the "Colonials" moniker.

| Field             | Student | Faculty | Staff | Alumni (Indicate your class year below) | Other | Total |
|-------------------|---------|---------|-------|---|-------|-------|
| Strongly Disagree | 38% 110 | 6% 17   | 6% 18 | 49% 144                                 | 1% 4  | 293   |

| Field          | Student  | Faculty | Staff  | Alumni (Indicate your class year below) | Other | Total |
|----------------|----------|---------|--------|---|-------|-------|
| Disagree       | 42% 164  | 6% 22   | 8% 33  | 44% 171                                 | 0% 0  | 390   |
| Unsure         | 37% 451  | 5% 61   | 7% 84  | 50% 598                                 | 1% 12 | 1206  |
| Agree          | 35% 1023 | 4% 119  | 5% 143 | 55% 1601                                | 1% 17 | 2903  |
| Strongly Agree | 31% 780  | 4% 105  | 4% 90  | 60% 1503                                | 2% 38 | 2516  |

Showing rows 1 - 5 of 5

In terms of sports, I can rally for the "Colonials" moniker.

| Field             | Student | Faculty | Staff  | Alumni (Indicate your class year below) | Other | Total |
|-------------------|---------|---------|--------|---|-------|-------|
| Strongly Disagree | 49% 923 | 7% 128  | 7% 129 | 37% 692                                 | 0% 8  | 1880  |
| Disagree          | 45% 450 | 4% 44   | 7% 69  | 44% 439                                 | 0% 3  | 1005  |
| Unsure            | 34% 299 | 5% 43   | 7% 63  | 53% 461                                 | 1% 6  | 872   |
| Agree             | 22% 330 | 4% 53   | 4% 64  | 69% 1014                                | 1% 14 | 1475  |
| Strongly Agree    | 26% 540 | 3% 57   | 2% 47  | 68% 1428                                | 2% 41 | 2113  |

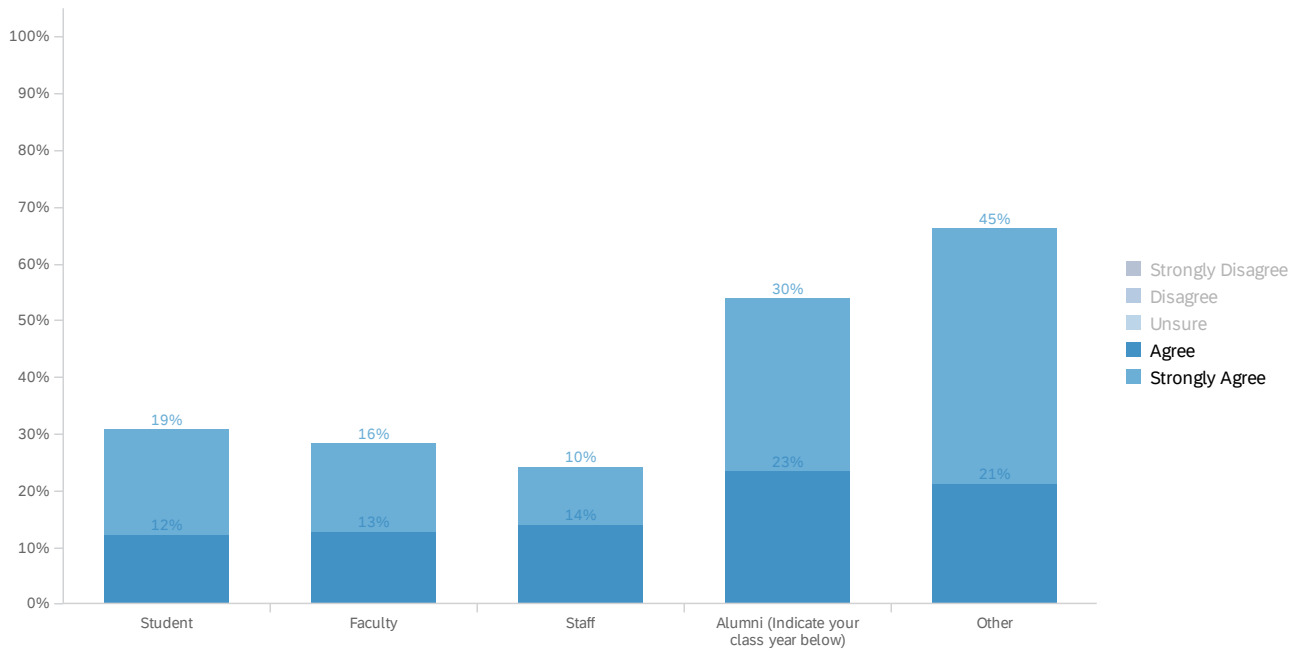
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The "Colonials" moniker affected my decision to attend GW.

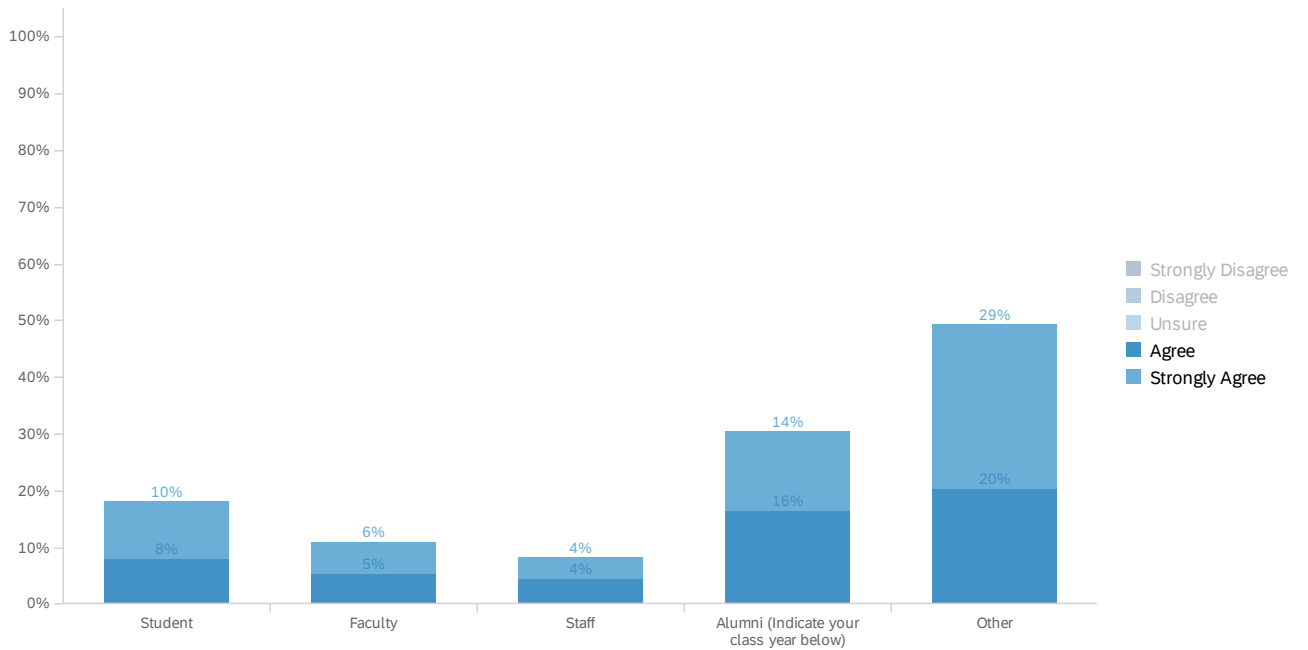
| Field             | Student  | Faculty | Staff  | Alumni (Indicate your class year below) | Other | Total |
|-------------------|----------|---------|--------|---|-------|-------|
| Strongly Disagree | 33% 1277 | 5% 178  | 5% 190 | 57% 2196                                | 1% 22 | 3863  |
| Disagree          | 35% 650  | 3% 64   | 5% 93  | 56% 1031                                | 1% 18 | 1856  |
| Unsure            | 38% 348  | 5% 45   | 8% 72  | 48% 441                                 | 1% 13 | 919   |
| Agree             | 38% 142  | 1% 4    | 1% 4   | 58% 217                                 | 2% 6  | 373   |
| Strongly Agree    | 43% 121  | 1% 3    | 1% 4   | 53% 151                                 | 2% 5  | 284   |

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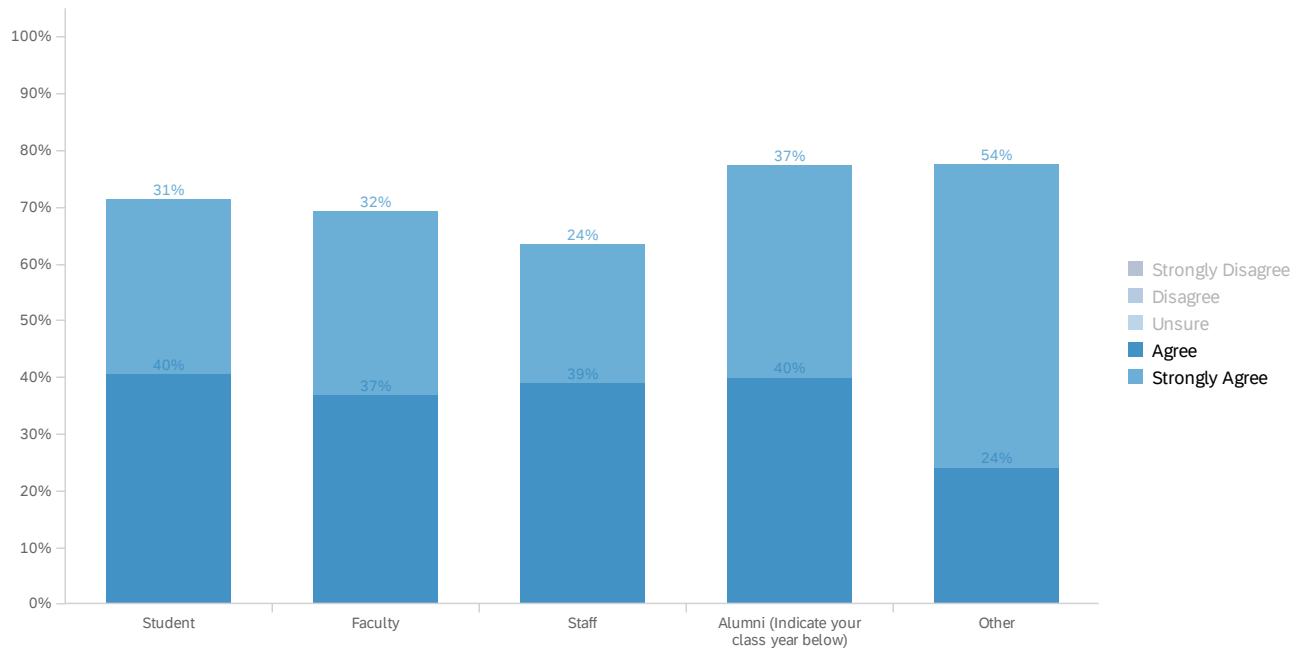
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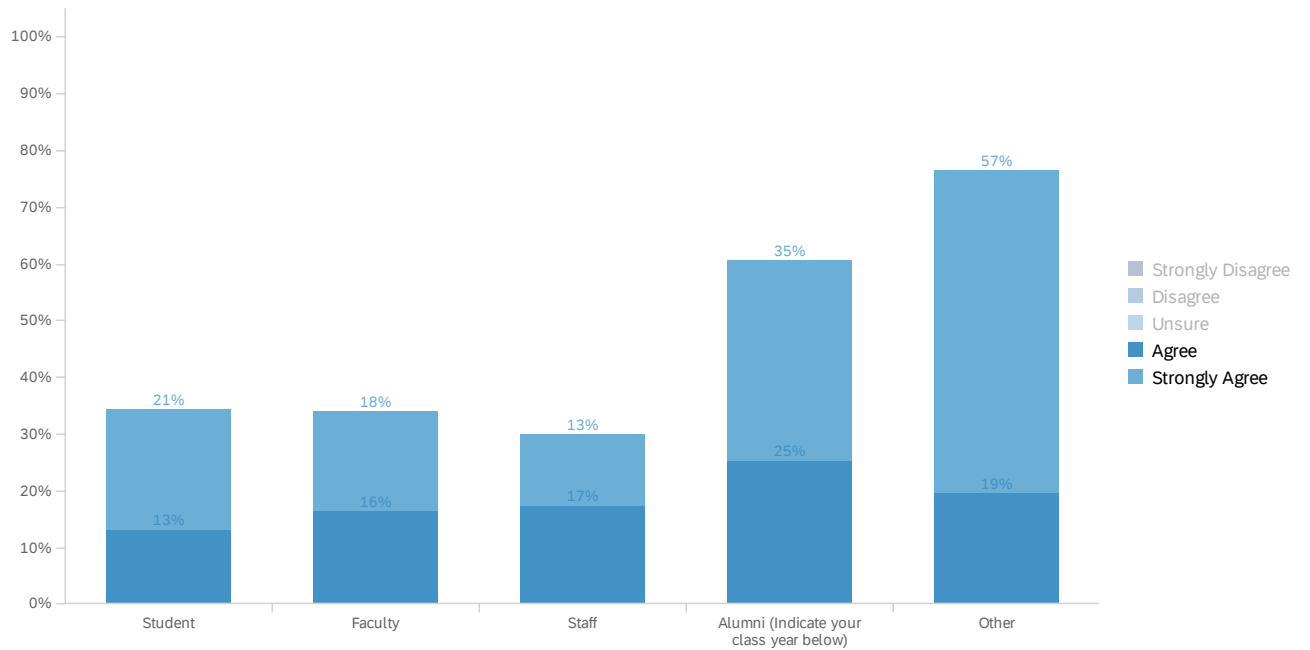
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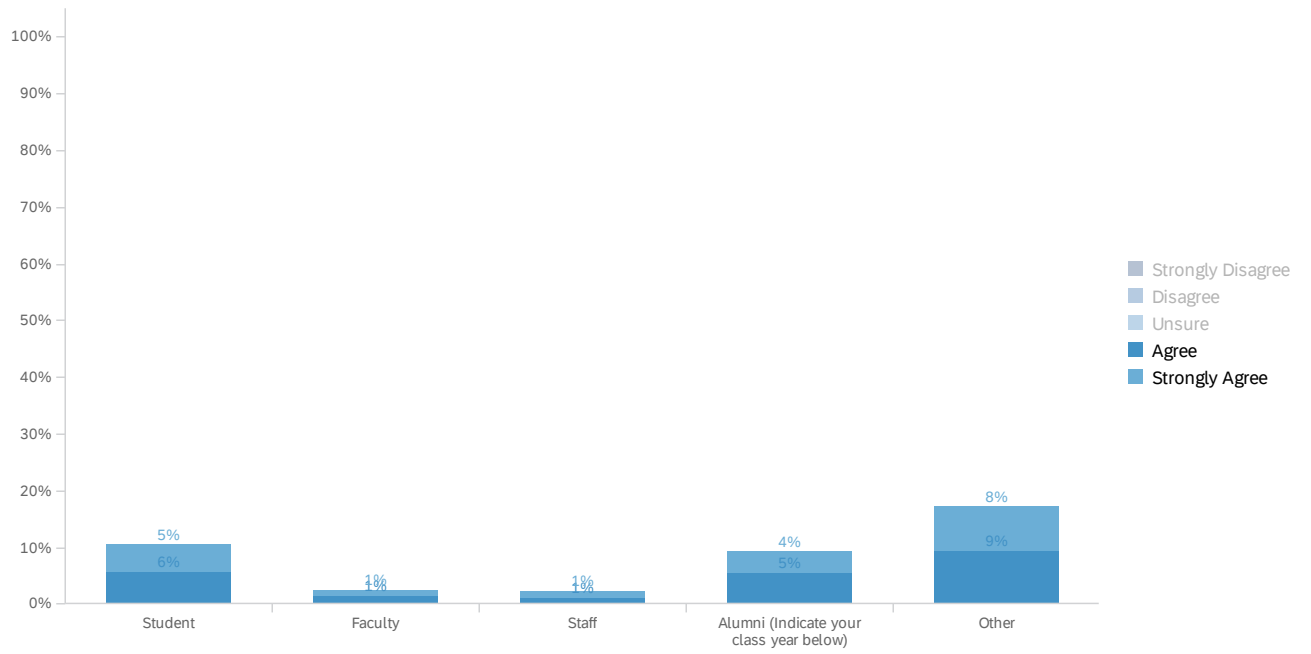
I understand the meaning behind the "Colonials" moniker.



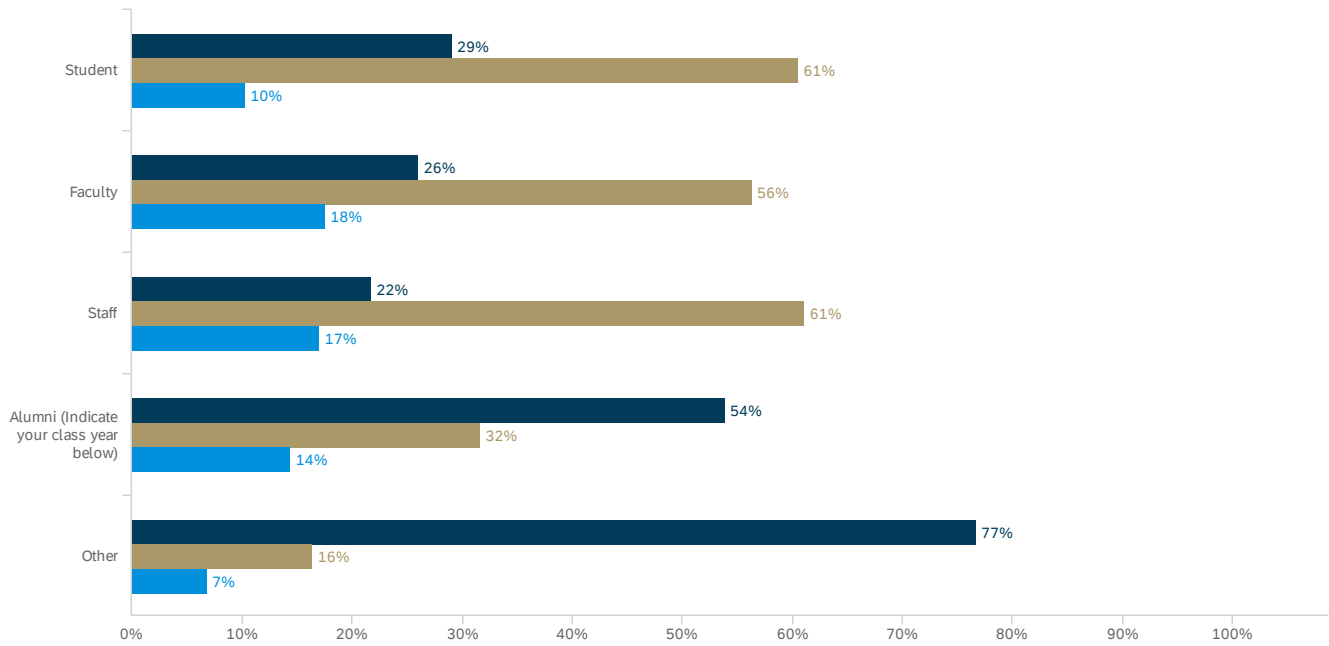
In terms of sports, I can rally for the "Colonials" moniker.



The "Colonials" moniker affected my decision to attend GW.



## Q7 - What is your opinion on this matter?\*



| Field  | Student  | Faculty | Staff   | Alumni (Indicate your class year below) | Other  |
|--|----------|---------|---------|---|--------|
| I am in favor of keeping the Colonials moniker.  | 29% 744  | 26% 86  | 22% 83  | 54% 2191                                | 77% 56 |
| I am in favor of removing the Colonials moniker. | 61% 1549 | 56% 186 | 61% 233 | 32% 1287                                | 16% 12 |
| I have no preference.                            | 10% 264  | 18% 58  | 17% 65  | 14% 587                                 | 7% 5   |
|  | 2557     | 330     | 381     | 4065                                    | 73     |

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Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

There are much more serious name changes that could and should be taken on campus. The mascot is obviously an allusion to George Washington and the Revolutionary War in the American colonies, and not to the atrocities committed by British colonialism. The University could do more to educate on this, since there appears to be a large section of the University that seems to conflate the two. Secondly, we obviously celebrate the victories in that fight, of a nation that strives for equality and inclusion for all, and not any other aspect of America at the time. The Mascot is a champion for those values, and I struggle to think of any kind of replacement that could uphold the University's values in the same way while maintaining its culture of centrality in the city of Washington.

Take some time before getting rid of the name completely to find a new name that people like and will accept, don't have a period of time where there is no name or a temporary name as that will disillusion the community more.

This is truly a ridiculous waste of everybody's time. There are real issues affecting minority communities, both at GW and in our nation at large. This mascot is simply not one of them. It is a sideshow masquerading as social justice. If the advocates of mascot change truly cared about helping the less privileged and disadvantaged, they would be agitating for greater student aid, lowered tuition, expanded course offering, hiring more professors, helping underprivileged communities, etc. Nobody who is truly oppressed cares about a mascot that, until very recently, was a benign symbol of patriotism and university spirit, until, in truly Kafka- and Orwellian-esque fashion, the self-proclaimed "woke-est" among us declared it to be problematic. It is long past time that our great university community stops this farce, and returns to the actual business of educating the next generation of American leaders. My undergraduate institution recently underwent a similar process of discarding the "colonials" mascot. Please see a recent op-ed that I published on the matter in the local newspaper: <https://www.newstimes.com/opinion/article/Opinion-Ashamed-of-Western-my-alma-mater-15350481.php>

Please take into consideration the exclusivity and harm this moniker places on students who have been affected by the history of colonials.

I believe that with an institution named after George Washington, the name Colonials is perfectly acceptable today and into the future. Changing it for any reason at this point is just a poor attempt at trying to change how we view history.

I think it says a lot about student opinion that we have an unofficial mascot (the Hippo) and, at least in my experience, are more likely to cheer for "GDub" or chant "Raise High!" than yell go colonials. We are already making this cultural change. Please help us make it official! Also, it needs to be said somewhere here that if we want our university to truly be a place that values and embraces diversity, equity, and inclusion policies, then things like this moniker and building names such as the Marvin Center must change. Thank you for considering this matter. I really appreciate the work you all are putting into this.

Just do a hippo, it could look really good as a semi-intimidating mascot on school merch

I feel included by the moniker because I can trace my lineage back on my mother's side to the Mayflower. My family were colonizers and while I don't believe there is anything wrong with people emigrating because of religious persecution (refugees), the behaviors and actions of the colonists regarding the native people of North America was atrocious since before the US was established as its own country. The descendants of those colonizers have systemically oppressed, abused, and killed the native peoples of this land, and as a country and society we continue to actively, passively, and systemically participate in acts against the native nations and tribes of this land.

A colonial is one who lived in the Colonial era of American history. It is not a specific person. It is not a specific practice or way of life. It is not an endorsement of either. It is simply a reference to our shared history which shares much of its roots in the Chesapeake area. GW should take this opportunity to affirm rationality over zealous overreaching and keep our Colonial moniker.

I don't really mind it either way. If people are upset about it, then change it. If not that many people really mind, then don't change it.

What is the logical conclusion of this endeavor? If "colonials" is offensive then so is everything that existed in America before the 13th amendment. George Washington owned slaves, is the university going to discard the first president's name? Congratulations, you've taught students that they can erase any modicum of historical fact that offends their delicate sensibilities. For every student you think you've spared the pain, 10 who are proud of America, it's history, and George Washington will silently cut ties- uninterested in your surveys and commissions. You'll just never receive a dollar from them, their children won't attend, and you'll have a fuzzy anthropomorphic woodland critter that nobody cares about as your mascot. Bravo.

It is insensitive to the destruction caused by colonialism worldwide, it's not racist towards one particular group, but it is a constant reminder of the oppression white colonialism has inflicted in many groups

If you do rename, try to choose something with meaning. "Texans," "Nationals," etc. are so bland as to not particularly inspire anyone.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I strongly believe the "Colonial" moniker is entirely appropriate for an institution named for General George Washington

I'm disappointed that it has taken this long for GW to consider changing this moniker. I'm incredibly disappointed that, even now, it's still being presented as something that's debatable. This is a simple and clear step towards committing to bigger changes. It should not have taken this long to consider taking it. We need to do better. This is not enough.

As an international student from a country that was colonized and is still facing challenges created by colonization, it is utterly unsettling to be associated with this term, whatever it's original intended purpose may be.

If the Colonials moniker is removed go ahead and change the name of the University as well. George Washington would have been referred to as a "Colonial" by those native to Great Britain and there is no reason to change it.

It should not be the mascot. It doesn't represent the diverse population

Change the name. To begin, my argument certainly makes some assumptions, mainly that when viewed in totality colonialism is bad, and that those who support the "Colonials" moniker have settled on a narrowed definition of the moniker that does not include the negatives of colonialism. There's many people who can explain why the name "Colonials" is bad on so many levels, and they can probably do so better than me. What I will say--even though the negatives of the name should be enough on their own to have it changed--is that there are far better monikers to use that capture what "colonials" is "meant" to without also bringing in the vast negative connotations of colonialism (The only reason I am not specifically referencing some is that I do not think my input on what the new name should be has been asked for). "Colonials" is also not a cool name. I honestly do not understand the pushback to changing the name. It seems like people are desperately clinging to "Colonials" as if it's the last bastion of the unnecessary principle of American Exceptionalism. Whatever meaning, nostalgia, and personal satisfaction "Colonial" supporters glean from the moniker is easily outweighed by the actual pain the name causes to actual victims of colonialism. "Colonial" supporters have decided to make this a debate about how we view the US founding because when stepping back and viewing what the moniker actually means to them, it is insignificant; their views on the founding would not change with the name, no one's would. On the other hand, victims of colonialism, their descendants, and those who have any sympathy to subjugated and nearly eradicated people are actively, in present day, hurt by the name. I pity the person who thinks they lost a historical debate because the GW mascot changed from an 18th century guy in a waistcoat to a hippo or something. But I emphasize with the person who attends a university whose mascot celebrates, or at least impliedly accepts, the near eradication of indigenous peoples, the institution of slavery, and the exclusion from civil society of any non-white land-owning male. Again, I have a hard time believing that someone's identity is so closely tied to what the moniker "Colonials" stands for that changing the name so as not to celebrate the negatives of colonialism would cause them as much harm as victims of colonialism, their descendants, and those who have any sympathy to subjugated and nearly eradicated people face every time they try to watch a GW basketball game. Change the name. I doubt this gets read, but I wrote it to figure in my own mind why I think it is so dumb that people do not want to change the name.

Please do not succumb to re-naming over hyper-sensitivity. There are some who can find something bad everywhere they look. There is nothing "insensitive" about the Colonials moniker. On the contrary, it is something to be proud of since the colonists fought oppression to set us on the path to becoming the great nation we are today.

I think this argument is unnecessary, which might speak to my privilege that I am not bothered by it, I just think there are so many other things going wrong at GW that deserve more attention and funding than a huge new rebranding marketing campaign. I don't have a preference but lean towards just leave it alone. I don't feel so strongly as to say I am in favor of keeping it but I don't think this whole thing is warranted.

I'd be fine with being called the hippos or river horses or something like that. And yes, I know the story behind why that statue is there too.

I thought that the mascot was weird from the beginning, and it just makes it even harder to have school spirit. I want to love GW but having this as our central figure in sports, clothing, etc. is just uncomfortable. I definitely want to see it get replaced in the near future, but by what I am unsure. The Hippo is honestly a lovely choice. It's funny, makes people smile, and isn't a symbol of slavery in our country and around the world.

Colonial practices and mindsets have done untold harm to many cultures and communities, and reflect a patriarchal, imperialist, and Eurocentric worldview. These are not the kinds of values and histories that I want my alma mater to celebrate.

Thank you for taking in student impact. I believe that as a student who studied abroad and was told not to wear the moniker overseas, we have already recognized the impact and bad connotation of this name and concept. We shouldn't be romanticizing genocide, displacement of people, and selfishness. To honor George Washington, we can reflect government building and revolution, but must recognize the stolen land and history we are erasing.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I would actually say that if it was kept, it doesn't bother me that much. But I think that it would send a good message to our nation to change it. I also think that for some students it might be triggering (though honestly why would you pick a school that you found triggering?). Anyway, I'm in favor of removing it, but at the end of the day I wouldn't care if it were kept, either.

I think that this moniker isn't inclusive of indigenous and POC students on campus, and invokes a time when these people didn't have rights. It feels extremely insensitive.

Don't understand how this is such a big deal to students now and in the future it's what we represent. And that would be colonialism which clearly those who are voting in favor do understand what it's done to societies and marginalized groups around the world.

change it!!

Please can we do something with the hippo, please.

REMOVE REMOVE REMOVE

I think that this whole discussion was brought on by some confusion between the terms "colonials" and "colonialism/colonization." Virtually every figure in the American Revolution was referred to as a "colonial."

I feel there are better ways to represent our student population.

How much money is GWU spending on this and the building renaming matters? Isn't there a \$100M shortfall? This seems a very low priority; much larger issues to address.

The colonials term is offensive and uninclusive for the people who have faced and continue to face the discrimination and exploitation as a result of the colonial rule. We should not be glorifying people that did not stand up for what is right and thus, were on the wrong side of history.

I understand the meaning behind the use of the moniker; however I think it is a closed-minded perspective seen through the lens of descendants of colonizers.

It's not like we have team spirit anyway... When budgeting is available-rename and enjoy the media coverage

This is a disrespectful term to commemorate and want to be associated with. This is part of the reason that white students on campus feel like they can say microaggressions or take photos with bananas and call themselves "black".

Colonization is a dark part of history and by refusing to change the name GWU is proving that they essentially do not care about anyone who isn't white.

Once again, the colonial moniker strongly represents RACISM. It is embarrassing that so many people are against changing this harmful mascot, most of those people being white men. At this point, they are being willfully blind and refusing to educate themselves on what the colonials mean to minority communities. Racism is alive and well in the GW community, changing the mascot is one EASY way to make this increasingly diverse environment a little more welcoming. For those of you who do not want to change the mascot and believe yourself not to be a racist, I want you to take a good look at yourself and reevaluate because you are and the white fragility is showing. Current student's thoughts and opinions should be at the forefront. The colonials moniker is so engrained into the older alumni experience at GW that they do not see anything wrong with the moniker. This is comparable to older generations being "set in their ways" and seeing nothing wrong with their racist behavior. It is 2020, I want to believe that those receiving and who have already received a high education are not this ignorant about diversity and INCLUSION. COLONIALS IS NOT INCLUSIVE. P.S. This paragraph is especially for the "history" professors at the 10/29 townhall and the folks on the committee still opposed to the change.

There is nothing not inclusive about this moniker. If it is changed, I will be embarrassed to say I have a Bachelors and soon to be J.D. from this university.

Next they're going to want to rename the university itself. There is no placating the woke mob, don't fall for that.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

The students and limited faculty who have supported the elimination of the Colonials moniker have yet to provide any compelling rationale or evidence of students who understand the term who have felt threatened or hurt by its usage.

The time for change is now. We must not only acknowledge the history of the US but do what we can to ensure it does not repeat itself.

This is a great example of cancel culture going to far. Colonial America fought for freedom

While I understand that the moniker probably has a lot of deep tradition and pride to it at this institution, I can also see why it is time to move on. So much has changed in our understanding of how the United States was formed that I think it would be insensitive to keep this moniker. There are also many other options that could be more inclusive and less offensive that would stick to the theme of "Washington." We could make the moniker the hippo which has been GW's unofficial mascot for a long time.

Remove the moniker

I do not believe the colonials moniker to be racist or offensive in any other way.

I'm aware of this matter but I think I don't know much about it

Not only are the Colonials an important part of GWU's heritage, they an important part of our nation's heritage that we should be proud of. The removing and demonizing of our Country's heritage as of late is getting out of hand and I fear that we are heading towards a path where we are convinced that our country was founded on evil. Please resist this!!! Keep the Colonials moniker!!

I believe that values and norms change over time and that may entail changing who and what we uphold as role models or respected constructs. That being said, history can provide a powerful teaching and reflective tool. It can serve to remind us of the imperfections of the past and inspire us to keep moving to change for the better. The symbol does not need to only be honored, it can and will be different things to different people.

Calling ourselves colonials is racist and exclusionary. If we are to be the progressive university we claim to be, we have a duty to change the moniker to one that is not racist.

I'm not a fan of the "Colonials" moniker and I think GW can find a better one

This entire debate is ridiculous, the mascot should not be changed. Colonials is not racist or un-inclusive at all; black, hispanic, Native American, Indian, Asian, Pacific Islanders, and Europeans were all colonials.

As an institution that has BIPOC I find it a little weird and mildly disrespectful to have a moniker with such an oppressive history (along with buildings named after slave owners) regardless of how much the meaning is changed or meant to mean something different. I really hope that knowing this sentiment that GW's non-white population (and some of the white population) has prompts the administration and those of higher authority to change this moniker.

George Washington led his fellow colonial subjects in an insurgency against the British empire to transform the colonies into sovereign states. This is an objectively anti-colonial narrative. It's literally about ending colonialism. Many of the American Founders were the descendants of Europeans who did engage in violent expansion and helped colonize American land for the British. This is true. And such facts complicate America's famously anti-colonial founding, but they do not repudiate it. The European Americans who liberated themselves from colonial rule were anti-colonial, at least when it came to themselves. These people who lived in the 18th century were not as inclusive as our modern understanding would prefer, but George Washington and the "colonials" who fought alongside him inspired anti-colonial movements around the world including Haiti, Ireland, and India. It's not plausible that celebrating George Washington leading his fellow colonial subjects in an insurrection against the British Empire is somehow also endorsing British rule in India or French rule in Algeria. Perhaps if we were called the GWU "Colonizers", but that is not the case. If the school gives into the unreason of these activists they will signal to DC and the world that the American revolution was a lie - that America's narrative of liberation is actually just a narrative of oppression. Perhaps it is both and both narratives can combine to create a more complicated story. But if GWU wants to be taken seriously as an academy, it should not pretend that historical narratives are so simple.

Questions like "I understand the meaning behind the "Colonials" moniker" are terrible. This question is demeaning and seems to hint that if as a student against the moniker you must be misunderstanding what it means. Listen to your students- it is a bad mascot and should change.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

There is no reason this university should hold association with colonizers and uplift them to the point of making it our moniker. This makes so many students feel out of place and unrepresented. We should NOT be named the colonials, it has a hurtful history with modern day consequences.

I attended St. Bonaventure University--another A-10 school--for my undergraduate studies. St. Bona's had removed their Brown Indian mascot (despite no objections from the local Seneca Nation) because of fears it may have been offensive. Fair enough; our treatment of indigenous peoples is a dark period in American history. However, the Colonials moniker is a source of pride. Despite our failings, the United States of America IS the best nation on earth. People come here to enjoy the freedom the Colonial soldiers fought for. It's our great honor to remember the brave men (and several women!) who fought for our freedom every time our NCAA teams compete.

My ancestors died on the trail of tears. I will never rally behind the image of a white colonial man. It is antithetical to my identity. It is why I do not own any GW-related items like sweatshirts or mugs because I would never want to represent that harmful imagery in any community I am a part of and I would not want to be associated with it in any way on a personal level. I find it both offensive and outdated, although that is also how I have found many of the "traditions" that GW perpetuates, so perhaps it is a fitting symbol for a school that continues to miss the mark and fails to adapt to the clear trend toward diversity and inclusion as a core principle of a quality education rather than as something that can be achieved by forming a committee to contemplate whether a colonial white man is a fitting school mascot. Many months of work might have been avoided had anyone in the room had the sense to question the absurdity of turning a simple issue into a months-long parade rather than focus on the actual issue of how to promote diversity at GW.

When I first visited GW as a prospective student, I saw a shirt that said "property of the colonials" in the bookstore. all i could really do was laugh because my first thought was that as a brown woman i would literally have been a property of a colonial. it was just one of the ways i would continue to feel excluded throughout my time at GW. removing this moniker will remove one ostracizing aspect of this school for low income, first gen, BIPOC students like me.

I have no personal ties to the moniker, and would be more than happy being referred to solely as the hippos!

Are there any people of Native descent on the committee? Or is this just academics/lawyers trying to save face?

I hate the moniker please get rid of it ASAP.

The definition of "colonials" does not make it inherently racist, so it should not be renamed based on that basis. However, becoming "Hippos" or another animal would increase school spirit at a time when our community feels as distant as ever.

As long as the school name is still George Washington University, I could not care less what the moniker is. Not the school with the biggest school spirit so mascot doesn't really matter.

GW Students always have to be outraged about something - this is their new attempt. It's a mascot - it really doesn't matter that much. However, it would be expensive to change and affect many alumni's relationship with the university.

This is another sad attempt at cementing the untruths of fragility and emotional reasoning.

I am proud to be a Colonial and part of GW. It was essential to the very reason I decided to seek an educational opportunity with GW. The removal of the Colonial moniker will have a serious influence on my continuance with GW as it goes to the principle that one's opinions and feelings should not invalidate another's feelings and inspiration. One does not have to attend GW, it is a choice. Education on the Colonial moniker is essential to garnering understanding to continue GW's diverse student body, but activism for the sake of activism is not necessary as any effort or ideology that does not look beyond itself is repressive.

Thank you for being socially aware of the implications of certain mascots and taking the time to do this survey. Maybe we should just call ourselves Hippos?

While students may choose not to attend GWU due to the Colonials moniker, I highly doubt a single student will choose not to attend GWU if we're not the Colonials.

I am in favor of change as a student of color, I feel as though there can be an animal who can better and fully represent us as the diverse community we are.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

While I do not feel personally offended by the Colonials moniker, I find it to be an extremely outdated choice that sullies the image of a modern and progressive elite university.

I just want it to be inclusive & not have such a heavy connotation.

Seriously?

As an Oklahoman, and person enrolled in the Cherokee Nation, I have a relevant understanding. And with these experiences, I am still (not) in favor of changing the Colonials moniker.

Come on, you think it's okay in 2020 for someone to be walking around with a shirt on that says 'Colonials' on it. I get the idea you're really trying to run with here, but it no longer represents the ol' Yankee Doodle look you guys want.

We should be the GW Cherry Blossoms! That would be cute

Please just change it to anything else ASAP!

I want our mascot to be the hippo!

Please direct your energies toward more important matters. This PC / cancel culture is draining and depressing.

It has been ok for over one hundred years, now that woke kids want to change something they disagree with is not a reason to make changes. Where does it stop? After they rename and redo history to change it to what they like? Then 10 years later someone doesn't like that, and then you have set a precedent and that is what is dangerous as it probably won't stop and keep coming back to change things over and over again.

Make us the Hippos, pussy

We could be the "Washingtons" and keep the mascot for all I care. I just think that "colonial" has a bad connotation, especially for any people outside of the US, and I'd rather not have to feel ashamed of my school's moniker and merchandise whenever I leave the country.

Should be changed to the Hippo

It is fine. Do not change it.

Perhaps it is time to evolve along society instead of perish with outdated terminology.

I think that the decision to remove the moniker would allow BIPOC to feel more welcome at GW. It would show to the world that GW is a place of inclusion like it claims to be. We can honor and recognize our history as a country, without upholding and idealizing the harmful and traumatic terms and ideals behind names.

It doesn't particularly matter what Colonials means to me. What matters is that this word is widely understood at this point as having connections with genocide, White supremacy, the perceived superiority of European cultures and languages, and the like. If folks feel excluded by it, then it should be removed. We shouldn't ask people to be represented by a symbol that feels hateful of them and to them.

We should be the hippos <3

Please refer to my previous response. I also run Sovereign Stories which is a YouTube channel on Indigenous issues. I've discussed various mascots and words before, but never felt compelled to discuss this moniker.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

As a person of color, this is highly offensive and also the survey questions are very telling on how out of touch GW admin are with what makes GW worth it for students. You are really going to ask if the mascot helped me decide to come to GW, or that I rally around the mascot for sports? What sports first of all, GW admin could care less about the successful sports teams like GW rowing. And in terms of feeling included on campus by having a mascot named the colonials? My family has spent generations trying to escape colonialism and it's effects. All around poor taste and if it really takes this long to realize this mascot is not appropriate then clearly there are bigger issues.

This name should absolutely be changed; there are no excuses. From a social perspective, it is true that many people, myself included, associate the term thematically with George Washington and other founding fathers, as well as with a specific time period (that is overly romanticized--see, e.g. Colonial Williamsburg). But giving this name even an iota of critical thought leads to the inevitable conclusion that this moniker is NOT unifying; it refers to wealthy, landowning, usually slave-owning white males, who were the ruling class of the "colonial" period, and they are the people to whom "colonials" refer. The moniker is explicitly EXCLUSIVE of people of color, international students/faculty/staff, and low-income people. From a sports perspective, too, this is a bad name. George Washington and his peers were crotchety men in fancy clothes and powdered wigs who hung out in dark rooms and never bathed--not exactly a strong or formidable figure to rally behind when pursuing athletic victories. Alumni who are athletes may have nostalgic associations with this moniker, but at the end of the day they should be fine with a name change that doesn't at all change their experiences of athletics, and would probably even enhance it. Finally, in this cultural moment of reckoning with racial injustice, not only the substance, but the optics of keeping a moniker like this would be terrible for GW as an institution. If we want to compete with peer institutions, we must change this name because it will drive potential students and families (i.e. money) away. Gen Z high schoolers will not want to apply to or attend a school whose mascot is a thinly veiled version of "slaveowner."

I would like to see a new moniker that is more representative of our diverse student body.

Colonials just needs to go

GW can not claim to support BIPOC students without valuing their concerns and criticisms.

Please please please change the name. Not only is the name itself harmful, disrespectful, and ignores the violent implications of all things "colonial," but it makes any GW-related event tainted by that moniker. Ideas and phrases like "colonial madness" are incredibly tone-deaf and disrespectful, and could be avoided if we could build our identity and culture around different names, words, and ideas.

GWU is a [univers]ity where many leaders, from all over the world, come to gain knowledge, be inspired by American ideals and go back to their countries to build better lives for their people. That said, GWU should take this opportunity to lead by example and take a stand against colonialism. GWU, more than any educational institution I can think of, should continue to inspire world leaders and make it clear that colonialism is not something to be proud of. It is deeply hurtful to me and to the memory of my ancestors when I see colonialism symbols being celebrated. I imagine the GWU diverse community includes many who feel the same way.

I think the colonials moniker is fine. I don't think it's offensive, and it personally does not offend me (and the George Washington mascot has this kind of cute, creepy aesthetic that I like). I also, however, do not object to it being changed to the hippos (or "waterhorses") as I really love that hippo statue on campus and I think GW could make some really nice school spirit merchandise with the golden silhouette of our hippo statue.

I think the "colonial" is kind of a stupid mascot, regardless of your opinion toward colonization, but I really don't care. If I could choose, I'd make it the "owls" or something like that, because you can't really put a "colonial" on a shirt, but mascots are very, very unimportant to me. If you're going to change anything, I'd rather you changed the school colors to something less ugly.

As a well-known hub of progressive students, the least administration can do is listen to the wishes of its students. We've been begging for years. I don't care if the intention behind the Colonials mascot was not malicious, it is still problematic.

Revisionist anti-American history is a danger out of 1984.



Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

The term "colonials" is INHERENTLY linked to the destructive nature of the colonization of land and the persecution of native communities across the globe. As a history major who is graduating this year, I have been taught repeatedly at GWU how colonialism, especially in Africa and North America, was extremely detrimental to their native peoples. Why we would take pride in calling our sports teams the Colonials is absurd. Not only does keeping the moniker blatantly ignore the weight that the term carries, but it is also simply inaccurate to call George Washington's army in the Revolutionary War the "colonial army." George Washington led the Continental Army - I genuinely do not understand why it was decided that the "colonial army" was an appropriate name to represent our school, and I'm further baffled that this choice was made without even being historically accurate. Has the committee considered that their recruits may be hesitant to play for GW for fear of association with a problematic moniker? Ultimately, it makes our institution seem, frankly, foolish, out of touch, and ignorant. Keeping this name is actively choosing to ignore how "colonials" have affected and continue to affect people of color and native communities to this day. WE DO NOT NEED THIS MASCOT TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN SPORTS. The University stands to lose nothing of value by changing the moniker. It would show that the school hears their students' concerns and would avoid any question of the stance of the university on this matter. If this school wants their student body to support their sports teams and attend games more regularly in order to develop "school spirit," the least this committee could do is give us an unproblematic mascot that we can ALL rally behind.

As a person of color, it is deeply unsettling that my school touts this moniker with pride. It is also shameful that when I talk to students from other schools, I am too ashamed to bring up our mascot when others bring up the topic, or if I do bring it up, I often face confusion and ridicule directed towards GW. I think it is unacceptable that we continue to use this moniker, a symbol of oppression and white supremacy, on a campus that supposedly touts diversity and tries to make people of color feel included and welcome.

We have a large groups within our student body that lives have been negatively impacted by colonialism and the legacy of it. The mythos the pioneering exceptional American colonial is dead. What the symbol might have meant decades ago is not what it means today.

In order to be the progressive and inclusive institution that GW likes to call itself, we must stop alienating people of color on this campus by making light of hundreds of years of racism and genocide in making light of a "colonial."

The Colonials moniker is both a lame name that few people get excited for while also being offensive to others. There is literally no reason for it to be our moniker at this point in time.

Remove all the colonialist crap at GW.

Please change this moniker/mascot. It is harmful and offensive on many levels.

I don't think the name is a big deal

Do not give in to the blatant attacks against European & American heritage to placate the victimhood industry.

I would propose replacing it with something that has a less negative connotation, particularly considering the state of our country, that will be more inclusive for all students on the campus. Additionally, it would be easy to replace it with "the hippos" as that is a secondary mascot on campus that students identify with and is lighthearted and positive.

i don't find the moniker offensive but if others do then let's change it. it ain't that great anyway.

It's embarrassing that you have kept it for this long, when so much of the student body and so many bipoc have been telling you that it's gross. Jesus christ. Get rid of it. I am not proud to call myself a Colonial and never will be.

"Hippos" is right there. We all know what it means, we can all rally around it, and it excludes nobody. Just choose Hippos. It's a better mascot than a student in an unnerving George Washington costume. Also, hippos never enslaved Black people or committed genocide against Native Americans.

People should not jump to conclusions about a term that may have negative connotations.

Thank you for undertaking this reappraisal of the name, and hopefully this discussion will be a positive experience moving forward. Please understand that while many people might not respond to this and other surveys, there are many who do feel similarly to me (and also those who may disagree with me). Nevertheless, please do not acquiesce to a small minority simply to avoid "bad press." This is an esteemed higher education institution, please do what it should - challenge the intellectual capacity of its students.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Dont let your history be rewritten or erased. Be fround and learn from history. Weather the storm, this nonsense will go away. Stick up for yourself.

I think that any moniker that offends members of the community and makes people feel unwelcome should be removed, regardless of the original intent of the name.

the moniker should be changed to the GW Revolutionaries!!

hippo would be way cuter anyway

It is a stupid moniker - it is unnecessary to call us this. We do not need to glorify a bunch of white men taking native lands. Change it. It is a ridiculous name that makes us look terrible.

Consider how students of color and their allies feel about the the term colonials and the negative connotations associated with this moniker. As a poc, this moniker is not something I take pride in. I would love to have a school moniker that I can be proud of and that represents the values GW upholds and expects from students and faculty.

It is obviously racist and xenophobic.

I think this moniker has had its time and been represented for long enough. It's time for something new and more culturally relevant.

While I understand the need to not take this situation lightly, removing the Colonials monicker or any racist principle is not a light decision by nature. By recognizing the inherent racism in the name, we as a university would be helping to dismantle the systemic racism that courses through the veins of this nation. It is a major problem and will continue to be a problem until each of us recognizes our role and take action to course correct. Removal of the use of Colonials is a key action that would back GW's commitment to a focus on diversity. Actions speak louder than words. It's time for us to speak louder.

If it hurts members of our community why would we keep it?

Not sure what the big deal is.

Changing the Colonials moniker would be an enormous mistake- there were "colonials" of all races and creed who bravely fought for the independence of our great nation and to change it would be to dishonor and disgrace all of our ancestors. GWU COLONIALS!!!

Please do not give into the cancel culture woke mob. It's shameful that people are even wasting their time on this campaign. If these kids really cared about "justice" and not just plain virtue-signaling, all the money and time spent on this useless "Special Committee" could have gone to feeding the homeless, cleaning up the streets of DC, increasing salaries for low-wage university employees, etc.

Consideration of this matter epitomizes cancel culture.

I think it would be in the best interest of the GW community to change the colonial moniker to create inclusion and to promote social justice.

Didn't we already do this.

Regardless of what the original intent is of the moniker, it inflames people's emotions and refers to a point in history where Native Americans were slaughtered and white settlers called themselves blessed. It's not a time period that should be forgotten, but neither should it be revered.

There are other more pressing matters that could use focus and attention than this superficial and ultimately inane waste of time and resources. This erodes the confidence we have in the value of the vast administrative spend that has led to the incredible increases in tuition YoY. Want to make a real difference to people-- lower your tuition.

The Colonials moniker makes me uncomfortable, and I avoid buying school merchandise with the moniker, and advise my family to do the same.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I will lose respect for this University if/when the name is changed. Get ready to take down the GW statues around campus. This will be next.

In NO WAY should the moniker be changed.

You can honor someone, group, or thing without praising every aspect of it. Colonials represent the founders of our Country. If our university wants to try and rail against our Country, then I think we have a problem. Our ancestors may have committed bad actions, but who hasn't. We are all humans, we have all sinned and made mistakes. We honor our Colonials because their actions were so great that they deserve to be honored. We can honor them for their great actions, while still acknowledging any bad actions they committed. I have expressed my viewpoint multiple times. Never have gotten a response. If our mascot changes from Colonials I will never donate a penny to this university. My children will not attend her either. This is a sentiment felt by a significant population of this university as well. You know this but refuse to acknowledge it. It is the same medium size (not small, but definitely not really large) group of people complaining about everything here, from Leblanc to the Colonials. You are aware that the vast majority of the students aren't pushing for the change, nor offended by it.

While name changes are just part of a much larger effort for Anti Racism and equity that must be conducted by all individuals involved in schooling at GW (students, faculty, and administration alike), they are still a noteworthy and a seemingly simple first step. The language we use and rally behind carries immense weight. The word Colonial may hold different meanings to different individuals, but the feelings of exclusion and egotism is stirs in some should be the impetus for rapid change. This replacement would help honor student opinion and show via action (rather than words) that GWU is committed to change for the long-term and for the betterment of our school as a whole. We all can do better and we must continue to work amend our behavior and thoughts that are rooted in generations of implicit bias and racism.

I remember visibly wincing when I realised GWU students called themselves Colonials. I'm sure the connotation for the moniker was not meant to be what it seems but I am from India, and I can't imagine that this moniker sits well with most people who were 'ruled' over by Colonizers. Three centuries of cruelty and oppression can turn a person sour.

it really doesn't bother me either way. However, I could see how it could be mistaken as supporting slavery which many colonists did. Nevertheless, I think it is in GW power to decide if they can continue the name and make clear that they only support the founders of our country for the framework they made, and not for the racist practices of some of those colonists.

I think the conversation around the colonial moniker surrounds itself with the associated concepts of colonization compared to its actual definition. Being a colonial isn't bad but it's the association with it that is. That's all. Otherwise to appease everyone, let's just be hippos or have George Washington Riding A Hippo that'd be awesome

Coming from a colonized nation, the term is unsettling. But given the historical context of the original meaning, I can understand the moniker importance.

The moniker should be changed to something more inclusive that better represents the student body

I think it is crucial that we keep the Colonials moniker!

"Colonials" is different from the "colonizer" sentiment that I think it has become associated with as American colonials/revolutionaries were the ones who actually rebelled and fought against the greatest/largest colonizing empire in the world- the British empire.

I think the Surveyors would be interesting

Just get rid of it, it's old and dated, and it's time for a new look.

As a person coming from a colonized country, please change it to something else. There is no upside in keeping it and changing it shows GWU's commitment to caring about its community.

In terms of using the colonial moniker for our institution based on the idea that Washington was a colonial is completely wrong. He was an anti-colonial who led the continental army to fight against British colonialism.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

The term "colonial" has extremely negative connotations and explicitly links our institution to the oppressive system of colonialism. None of my school pride is tied to the colonials moniker -- in fact, it's something that prevents me from being more proud of my school than I am, and I know that many many of my peers feel the same way. Removing the colonials moniker would have nothing but a positive experience on the student experience and would make many many students, myself included, feel more represented and included by our school.

We cannot erase history

Please get rid of it — it's embarrassing.

The moniker does not allow all students to comfortably cheer on the school. In addition, it leaves students in an uncomfortable situation when seeking to address groups of students in a way that is respectable and equitable.

It's time for this change, it's happening everywhere

While it could be perceived in the negative way, I believe that history is important. Not everything that happened in history, especially America's history, was correct or morally good; however, I think that it is important to remember history, even the bad things. In terms of colonials, I want to keep it because it has many positive connotations that I think outweigh the negative ones. You can't hide all the bad things that have happened in the past and shouldn't want to.

Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.

Please let's act rationally and not get carried away by a very active and vocal minority. Most of us are perfectly fine with things as they are regardless of our origin (my friends and I are all non-white), and we resent when educational institutions give in to radical demands for virtue signaling.

I don't think people are super attached to "Colonials". If people say it's offensive, change the name. GW doesn't have a lot of school spirit anyway.

I believe an extremely good replacement for the colonials moniker would be the "revolutionary". This still reflects our history of being changemakers in the nation's capital and who George Washington was. Furthermore, I think that the student body at GW is revolutionary. We reflect future change, stand up for what we believe in, and are passionate about getting it done. I think revolutionary is the perfect word to sum up the GW experience. Go GW Revolutionaries!!

You will disappoint A LOT of your student body if you elect to keep this name.

I think that we shouldn't be embracing colonialism as an institution.

There are much more obviously egregious names than the Colonials. I don't love the name, but changing it may be overreacting to the moment. Black Lives Matter Native Cultures Matter

If we have students who DON'T know the meaning of colonials, perhaps our history department is remiss.

Change it ASAP!

As GW students, many of us pride ourselves on our diverse community. But a large number of students come from countries who experienced the destructive effects of colonialism firsthand. These students as well as indigenous students deserve to not feel ashamed to go to GW, especially when studying abroad in formerly colonized countries. Washington would not have considered himself a colonial, but a rebel and patriot against British colonial rule.

Understand there are many viewpoints that should be, and are, respected on this matter.

Don't change it. Give it a new meaning if people are dissatisfied with the current understanding

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Can we get this done so that we can stop talking about it, please.

GWU should rally behind the majority of students who support retiring the current moniker and replacing it with a more sensitive term based on valid reason that if discounted would sever the university leadership's credibility to a detrimental extent amongst many students, faculty and, staff.

N/A

"Colonials" = crap. Literally terrible mascot/moniker. How about GW Canines - for George's love of dogs! COME ON!

The board should honor the results of the referendum on this matter and drop the moniket

I understand the sentiment behind this mascot (because of our university being called "George Washington"), but I think in this day and age it's become offensive and we could do better with a different mascot. Removing the colonial moniker does not mean we need to remove George himself.

As someone of 2 or more races, I feel offended by this support of colonialism. I understand that there might be a history of this and relation to George Washington himself but as an athlete I'd hate to wear a shirt calling myself a Colonial because colonizers have stolen land that I and my family has lived on in the past.

I think education on colonialism and what that means in the context of American history is essential. I also think GW should put a bigger emphasis on the fact that we aren't celebrating colonialism, but instead celebrating our founders

as stated above, supporting the colonial moniker is outwardly showing and advocating for others to support genocide, murder, rape, racism, colonialism, imperialism, and many many many more adjectives that come to mind when I hear the word "colonial"

The world colonial comes from colonization which is of course tied to injustice and racism

The University should not be to the whims of every small group who wants to make an issue out of trivial matters. Keep the moniker. It's traditional and inoffensive.

I'm glad GW is catching up to the 21st century.

Would like our mascot to be a hippo at the very least

When I was deciding on whether or not to attend GW, one of my biggest cons against the school was the Colonial mascot. I believe that this term is hurtful for many people and therefore it should be removed.

I don't see how "Colonials" could have any more negative connotations than any other proposed name change. At some point, people are going to be offended by any nickname that has any historical relevance.

This is beyond a waste of time and University resources. Instead of this, you should be focusing on ensuring students have a firm grasp of American history and how the Colonials from all walks of life worked together to liberate the country. We have a rich history and tradition of people working together for a common good- maybe some of my tuition dollars can go towards learning about that America. Stop being intellectual cowards.

Hippos are way cooler and equally violent!

anyone who wants to change the colonials moniker should also be fighting to change the face on the dollar bill, the name of the city (both Washington and Columbia), the state of Washington, and the name of the school. Fight the good fight - but stay consistent - or the fight is silly. If we are to rename ALL that i listed, then by all means change the mascot. but until then, this is a huge waste of time and is embarrassing. i like the colonials moniker but if i see a clear argument against all associations with it then i'll understand.

I understand how out of context the term "colonial" can have racist connotations (associating it with imperialism, etc.), but in our university's use of it, I do not believe it does so.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Get rid of it now. It is embarrassing. It is tone-deaf. It reflects a limited view of history and what colonization actually means to indigenous populations and those who were enslaved.

Regarding the following questions on this survey: I understand the meaning behind the "Colonials" moniker. - I chose disagree because I'm giving GW the benefit of the doubt and assuming that the choice of "colonials" was not intended to invoke the egregious human rights violations of the colonial era, but I genuinely am not sure what meaning was intended should this be the case. The "Colonials" moniker affected my decision to attend GW. - the moniker did not affect the decision I made as a high school student; now that I have worked to educate myself on colonialism and its effects on the world, if I were to apply to colleges now I would be deeply disturbed by the administration's decision to retain the "Colonials" moniker, and concerned about the other ways that the university may fail to challenge violent power structures born out of the colonial era.

It's not that big of a deal to change it.

The "Colonials" moniker needs to be changed.

I have previously met people of color that felt uncomfortable applying to GW because of the Colonials moniker and decided that the name created an atmosphere where racism was tolerated if even encouraged and because of this decided not to apply to/attend the university.

For a school that promotes the idea of diversity and awareness, I think the Colonial moniker is ill chosen. At many orientation events and virtual events I have attended for GW, the moderator has begun with a recognition of the lands and the indigenous people who resided in the area. Although this recognition is important, the fact that GW maintains the Colonials moniker seems to be in direct contrast to this sentiment. The Colonials moniker is not representative of the student body, nor is it an accurate depiction of the image my classmates and I want to come to mind when we say we attend GW.

If you would like public statement by a member of the community in defense of the name, I am happy to make myself available.

I think the Colonial should be changed. I would say change the name to Continentals in honor of those that served alongside Washington in the Revolution: Black, White, and indigenous. For the mascot make it a hippo wearing the buff and blue Continental uniform.

I like the hippo.

Start educating students on what the word is rather than what they think it is. The word colonial is not racist. Just because a word reminds individuals of historical tragedy doesn't mean the word is a historical tragedy. There were good colonials and bad colonials in history but the word colonial does not refer specifically to the bad ones nor the good ones. Tell the Ottawa Senators to change their name since the word "senator" reminds dull children about some bad senators among the good.

While I understand the need to be respectful of others and can get behind the renaming of bldgs and roads although those it was originally named after did something great for their time I don't think the Colonials is as offensive as the Redskins and don't see the need to change it. Its bad enough I lost out on my graduation last year and I will again this year too (due to COVID and people's inability to be considerate of others and wear a mask) now I'm at risk of becoming offensive myself because of the clothing I have proudly worn these past few years.

The "Colonials" name is increasingly uneasy; hope it changes!

I am a proud Colonial and I am a minority. I am 100% in favor of retaining the moniker.

When I got accepted to GW I was very excited but was also very embarrassed by the Colonials moniker. I purposely avoid saying Colonials in reference to our school when talking to family and friends, especially those with backgrounds from colonized countries. GW would be better off removing the moniker.

I told my friend that we were called "Colonials" and she said, and I quote, "Ew." Students and others outside of the university's community have their own (negative) opinions about the moniker as well as opinions about the types of students and staff members who see no problem with its use.

Regardless of its original intent or meaning, the moniker is currently understood in a way that makes some folks feel excluded, so it's worth changing it. The fact that GW's leadership is considering changing it is very much to their credit in terms of being receptive to students.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

The moniker is offensive.. I don't think it's that difficult to understand. Most of us sit in class for hours and discuss the deep violence and marginalization that is the effect of colonization, the hours later go to a game and rally behind it. If it takes all of these surveys, discussions, and pleading students to get you to understand how wrong that is, you are a part of the problem.

This campaign is a symptom of a much broader malaise affecting academia and now our society more broadly. I highly recommend Helen Pluckrose and James Lindsay's new book, *Cynical Theories*, as a good LIBERAL argument as to why "problematizing" language is a bad thing. In the interest of academic pluralism, their perspective should be included.

I ardently support the student body and faculty as well as collateral persons who have found the moniker to be crude or out of touch. I personally would prefer Allegiants, Revolutionaries, or Patriots.

Not only is it a symbol of the racist systems embedded in this nation....it's ugly as fuck. Who in their right minds wants to cheer for pasty old racist men?? Make us the hippos:)

GW has awful press right now; it has mostly been in the news for negative updates. GW changing the moniker would be a step in the right direction for the school.

Colonials isn't the same thing as colonizers. I think this time and effort should be placed into postponing the nov. 6 deadline for pass fail

On the first point, I personally know what my understanding is of the word colonials, but I quite frankly do not understand why the GW moniker justifies itself as a different definition. That is why I chose disagree.

I don't like the hippos option

I think we should be the Hippos instead. It's already our unofficial mascot anyways. Also, GW really isn't know for its sports anyways, so it's not like "Colonials" is integral to identifying GW in the field/on the court.

I think the perceived issues and backlash will only grow with time. I'd be proud of GW if the administration used its foresight and decided to take action now before it became even more controversial.

I would like to see the options for other monikers

This moniker goes against everything GW should stand for as a modern, inclusive, progressive university. The term 'colonial' should never be praised, as colonialism irreparably harmed millions and its effects shaped many of the inequalities that exist in our world today. I do not believe that this symbol is in any way necessary for our school to hold onto. In fact, holding on to it only shows deep hypocrisy on our behalf as we work towards an inclusive future.

It seems fairly easy to alter the Colonials moniker, especially when the unofficial hippo mascot is right there. It also just seems outdated in today's world and has the kind of negative connotations that I wouldn't think GW is proud to represent.

I really just believe we should remove it. It celebrates a racist group of people, and we might as well try to move forward and educate ourselves instead of praise colonialism.

Don't waste your money on changing the moniker.

I have not purchased any GW attire that has "colonials" on it because I find it to be disrespectful and something that I can't support.

I am surprised this topic has only been seriously taken up in 2020. This is highly problematic and reflects very poorly on GWU. "Colonial" is not a neutral term. Trying to spin it as a neutral or positive term through the leading questions above shows the lack of appreciation for the historical baggage the term and its derivatives carry.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

It is so unbelievable that it is an issue. If this was a real concern and offensive to many students as it is now then it would have been made known when they were taking the tour. If the colonial mascot was so offensive to them then it would have been their priority and would not have even applied to this institution. It is very disappointing to find that our society nowadays has to find an offense in everything.

the moniker is exclusionary and outdated. time for a change.

Generally, any mascot that is merely an identity is just weird and often isn't inclusive of the makeup of the entire school. It would be much easier to cheer for the "GW monuments" or some sort of animal.

Removing the Colonials moniker in my opinion then suggests that the "George Washington University" should also do away with the name "George Washington" in order to be to be historically consistent with the reference critics are making towards the name "colonials". As someone who disagrees vehemently with changing either "Colonials" or "George Washington University", both names harken back to an alternative and equally valid view of this country's struggle for independence and also complements the name of the District that the school finds itself in.

Changing the name does not change U.S. history. The country started as 13 colonies, and I think history is important. But Washington himself was a revolutionary. "Revolutionary" may be more appealing to our current and uprising students?

I know these our conversations taking place at each university at the moment, especially in light of the Black Lives Matter protests this summer. I'm grateful for the consultation and will only say that change in this regard will undoubtedly take time for people to adjust but it is the right decision at this time.

The student body at GWU should review American history and understand the true meaning behind the Colonials moniker. It shows that a significant amount of society is ignorant and are desperate to be a part of a "cause" and rally for a movement that is ill founded and ignorant.

Please change the moniker, it is disrespectful to the people whose countries were colonized.

I think the moniker should be changed to the hippos

To me, being a Colonial is much like the Continental Army singing "Yankee Doodle": it is a moniker of defiance. It takes the insulting idea of being a "colonial," a subject of a greater entity which does not grant you equal status, and turns it into a point of pride. Ultimately, I think the moniker is very appropriate to the University, being names for George Washington and all, but just as GW had changed its name, I would not object to the establishment of a new one.

I support removing the Colonials moniker in favor of a name that can represent the historical significance of George Washington and early America without paying tribute to an aspect of American history that leaves a bad taste in many mouths.

While I understand some people may find the term offensive, we must also realize that this is part of our history. Is our history perfect? No, absolutely not, but nothing is. Our ancestors fought for our liberty and freedoms under the moniker colonials. These very ideals that they fought for and engendered a country under are still alive today. In fact, it's these ideas about life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness that draw people from across the world to come and live here, to find a better life for themselves and their families. So instead of focusing on the negative aspects of our history and trying to compare the standards of colonial times to today's, we should celebrate our history. Celebrate the fact that we are one of the greatest countries on earth, celebrate that we have been able to evolve and engender new ideas and interpretations about what the true meaning of our Declaration and Constitution is, and celebrate our history and the colonials that helped start the creation of this nation.

While I believe I understand the intent behind the "Colonials" ... it perpetuates the negativity of white colonialism and there are certainly better mascots/monikers to be had.

While I don't have any preference for or against the colonials moniker, I do have pride in this school being George Washington University. I would not want the name of the university to change even if the colonials moniker does change.

If you do change the moniker please, please, please consider Potomac Riverhorses as a replacement. It's equal parts unique to GW and non-offensive.

This is a part of history. I do not believe history should be rewritten.



Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

This mascot offends many students and everyone loves the hippo more anyways.

The people who left their homeland did so at great peril as many did not make it, and many died shortly upon arrival. Life in the Colonies was BRUTAL. Unimaginable to anyone attending GWU today. Why did they leave Britain? Life was horrible there too. It is easy to sit in a cozy chair with a cell phone in hand and judge people from that era. Life was the same for everybody, mostly one calamity away from certain death and no end to the work of day to day survival. Changing the 'Moniker' will not change history, like it or not.

Why are you wasting time on a survey? Not everything needs a consensus.

I understand why some people may feel strongly about the "Colonials" moniker. However, I believe that the intended purpose of the moniker is not to offend any student or person who is a part of the GW community. The name was chosen for its correlation with George Washington, who the school was named after.

We are advised against wearing spirit wear with this moniker when travelling or studying abroad. It is a stain on American history that must be confronted and not celebrated. Having this awareness and continuing with this moniker is harmful and disgusting, especially considering the fact that George Washington himself never considered himself a Colonial. It is not a unifying moniker, which inhibits school spirit.

If others are uncomfortable with it then I want to support them.

I think the time for a new moniker is long overdue. The fact that this is even a point of contention is embarrassing, especially when talking with friends who attend other colleges/universities. There is no reason to cling to a name which has virtually no cultural significance to the GW community as a whole, and which does more harm than good.

Why can't we be "revolutionaries" or "hippos"?

Erasing this moniker erases history and will make people in the future make the same mistakes as the the past. Also, erasing this moniker is erasing the era of people who fought for freedom from tyranny and establishing a country that stood for freedom and justice. Erasing this means saying the people who fought for our freedom as Americans aren't good and the birth of our country is not worth remembering which is shameful, unpatriotic, and discriminating against people who are proud to be apart of our history AS AMERICANS.

The question regarding the meaning of the Colonials moniker is a bit misleading. I am not sure whether this refers to the meaning is regards to GW or in general. Changing the Colonials moniker is only a symbolic change, but it will help to stop the dehumanisation of indigenous people and the glorification of genocide.

I do not feel strongly about the name at all. If people are offended by it, then by all means, change it. Colonialism is a very complex set of issues, and scholars debate the meanings and implications of colonialism extensively to this day. I do not personally feel like "Colonials" is inherently bad, but I see how people who get colonized may take issue with the statement. I propose that we change the name to Space Colonials. That way we can remain colonials, but instead of brutalizing natives and whatnot, the implication is that we explore the cosmos. The Space Colonials Moniker evokes feelings of optimism, exploration and innovation instead of regular old genocide and exploitation.

Thank you for allowing students to have a part in the decision making process of a possible name change.

I personally have no preference on this but I think if some students feel uneasy then it should be changed. GW wants to be an inclusive community and that means taking care of marginalized groups in our university.

Changing us to the Hippos would be so much more fun

It's a weird mascot, but kind of funny. Like a cartoon character.

I know it may be difficult to change the name, but I see this as a great opportunity to change the name to something fun that the entire school can rally around! For example, I think the GW Hippos has a fun ring to it that would set GW apart. Also, we should look into partnerships with the Native American communities that lived on and around this land prior to the arrival of Europeans to increase scholarship opportunities as well as educational programming.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Now that we know better, we should do better. My daughter rejected GW due to the moniker Colonials. I know it's a reputable university but the moniker has to go!

It is honestly embarrassing to have this moniker. When I tell my friends at other colleges our moniker and mascot there is a negative visceral reaction. It doesn't represent the present or the future. It represents an antiquated and problematic past.

I acknowledge the reasoning behind student opposition to the term "Colonial." I personally feel that equating the term Colonial with colonialism or imperialism is, for lack of better phrasing, somewhat ridiculous. I also feel like the alternatives range from dumb ("Hippos") to significantly more offensive ("Revolutionaries"). That being said, I don't feel like "Colonials" is a moniker worth fighting that hard to save. I'd probably just swap it out for "Continentials" and be done with it. I would note though, given that it's already come up, that I'm significantly more opposed to name changes regarding Churchill, Monroe, FSK, etc. That in itself may be reason to get rid of "Colonials." It may be somewhat difficult to reject ALL naming issues and if renaming the Marvin Center and changing the Colonials moniker is what it takes to preserve Monroe Hall and The Churchill Center then I'd do that.

While the term "Colonials" can have a negative connotation in some circumstances, the context in which the term is applied to the George Washington University is a positive one. This is the case as it celebrates the heroic nature of the patriots who served in George Washington's continental army, not that of oppressive colonizers.

Beyond some community members finding it offensive, it is not a good moniker by any means.

This is a non-issue for me.

GW Hippos. They're ferocious and not racist.

We should use Geogers instead of colonials

Keeping the colonial moniker is saying that the university doesn't care that they are openly supporting the people who enslaved africans and that the university is not sympathetic to the issues raised by the african american community at gw.

I recommend re-naming the moniker in favor of a more inclusive name

This debate is dumb. Keep colonials. It has been that way for a long time. People who are offended by it can toughen up. It is not meant to be a derogatory term. So tired of people getting offended by everything. You aren't a victim, toughen up.

While it may not be the moniker's intentioned meaning, students have expressed that it makes them feel uncomfortable and unrepresented. There is a strong argument to be made that the moniker has racist and offensive ties, so I strongly feel it should go.

Having the name "Colonials" might not have been the reason I came to GW (the financial aid package and academic offerings were first in my mind), but that doesn't mean that I think the name is expendable. I think the name Colonials is a perfect choice for a school named after George Washington, himself a leading colonial, and whose leadership enabled the colonials to achieve independence from the British, and in doing so, become Americans. The idea that the name Colonial is inherently bigoted or meanspirited toward people of color does not make a whole lot of sense to me. To be a colonial did not require being a racist; instead, it was the case that some colonials happened to be racist. That doesn't mean the word she been thrust to the ash heap of history. If we disavow the name colonial, we are disavowing the very people whose work led to the creation of a nation that, while imperfect, still had the tools to become more perfect in time. I'm not against renaming things when appropriate - for example, in my mind there is no reason this country should have infrastructure named after Confederate soldiers who committed treason and actively tried to scuttle the U.S. But that's not what colonials did. Now, let's imagine the name was changed. What is a suitable alternative? Presumably the school would want to do something relating to George Washington, but then someone could just as easily come along and say that name too is bigoted for its links to that time period. If we follow this thought process to its logical conclusion, our school shouldn't even be named George Washington, as he owned slaves himself. To me, that is an absurd outcome. The name should stay.

I really feel like this will not go anywhere.

I know bureaucracy and all that, but I honestly can't believe this is still a question, especially for a school that claims to be committed to diversity.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Honestly, it's time for it to go. While this would be so much less controversial if the nickname was "colonists" I feel like the idea of the colonial is so abstract that no one really cares about it anymore. To me, our school spirit is more tied to "raise high," the hippo, the buff and blue, and the letters "GW" and our George mascot -- not the moniker at all

While I don't believe that the hippo, for instance, would be any worse a mascot than the Colonials, I also think that the kind of historical revisionism that erases George Washington's legacy and imposes a differentiated meaning on words like "colonial" in order to induce controversy is ridiculous.

change it to the saber tooth tigers.

If you change it the school will not be the same. It should not be changed because that ruins school spirit and the basis of all GW gear, monuments etc. There is no reason to change a symbol of Americanism.

Remove it, I can't believe you're even asking for feedback on this issue. Just by asking, it is offensive. It's like asking "should a statue of Lee be removed". It is not open to public discussion because it hurts a group of people. Do the right thing.

change it.

The Colonials moniker is a symbol of oppression and does not contribute to an inclusive GW community.

If the name causes pain to individuals than I think it would be appropriate to change it. Furthermore, GW isn't known for its sports in any way shape or form, and therefore I would even consider rebranding the mascot an opportunity to actually create excitement around the name.

This is such a waste of money.

Electing to change the name of the moniker will undoubtedly cause similar movements to change the name of the school itself. Just be aware.

I don't really think the student body cares strongly for the moniker. In my opinion, students are either opposed to the moniker or indifferent. It invokes thoughts of an unappealing cultural practice in the minds of some, and others really don't seem to care. While I'm sure that it would be a speed bump for the athletics department, I think changing the name would be the right thing to do as a higher education institution.

GW is in need of money due to the pandemic. It does not seem like a smart idea to rebrand the entire school while revenue is much lower than usual and staff are being laid off, and students are receiving lower financial aid. This seems like an uneducated move.

1. I hope the new GW moniker to be democratically elected 2. "GW River Horses" would be my proposal for renaming

The association to and celebration of colonialism is imperialist and repulsive. I'd strongly prefer for the Colonials moniker to be removed.

I think that the hippo is already a well-established symbol (although unofficial) of GW and has the potential to be a more inclusive and significantly more embraced mascot.

If you stand for inclusion, and a college that stands for anti-racist education and practice, then REMOVE IT.

I didn't realize that Colonials was our mascot until I enrolled. I naively thought it was George Washington. It definitely deters my pride in my university.

I'd recommend "Senators," "Congress," "Yeomen," or "Foggy Bottoms"

I'm sure the Colonials moniker will change following the current tide of some of those within our country dead set on denying those in the future the history of the United States.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

GW must do more than simply perform cosmetic changes, even those these too are necessary. The university must also work to adopt not only an anti-colonial identity but put that anti-colonialism into practice. This means divesting from industries that have and continue to exploit indigenous peoples (such as fossil fuel industries) or which are active participants in colonial seizure of land (such as industries profiting off of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza or the Moroccan occupation of Western Sahara)

Revolutionaries makes so much more sense. George Washington fought against the colonizing British Army.

First of all, GW was not even founded in the colonial era. Second, the Colonials moniker could easily be perceived as romanticizing colonialism & colonizing, and I could see why students who are descended from people who pressed by colonization here and around the world would not feel included or welcome by this moniker. As a first semester grad student, I have absolutely no attachment to the moniker.

Colonialization is the perfect mascot for a school that strips undergrads and grad students of their resources while promising something of value in return that never materializes. Instead, the admins get richer while they lower faculty, staff, and student salaries; refuse to provide anyone assistance from the rainy day fund /we paid for/; and risk our lives with poorly-planned, top-down commands.

There is no reason why we should continue to use a moniker that hurts any current or prospective students. There are non-problematic monikers that will help improve moral on campus.

I am a doctoral student at GW. Someone bought my toddler onesies from all the institutions I attended, including GW. My son, is half-Palestinian (I'm Jewish and my husband is Palestinian) and the word "colony" (and related words) feels very powerful since Palestine has been colonized (and occupied). Given this, I felt uncomfortable putting my toddler in the onesie because of his identity. Putting a brown skin child in a onesie that says "colonials" is not comfortable. I don't have to think about that when I put on a onesie from my college (Pomona College Sagehens) or from my graduate institution (American University eagles). I think GW should change the moniker.

why would anyone want to be called a colonial

GW should maintain the colonials moniker in accordance with its history and namesake! If we do not, when's the next time we'll change our name again? What character or history will we have left to stand on?

I really think this whole renaming thing is a joke. Why have we become SO politically correct? Is it even offensive? this term has been around for ~250 years and NOW people are getting "offended" or not included....? In all honesty, I am ashamed of my university pursuing such actions. This term is a part of history, we learn from history, no one currently at this university is being "oppressed" because of "Colonials" and its definition. I thought the university was bigger than this, but I guess students need their "safe space".

Many of the colonials during George Washington's time period were trailblazers for freedom, independent thought and expression, and liberty and justice. Colonials could rally around George Washington for leadership, integrity, and intelligence, and that message can still ring true today metaphorically. We, as students, come to this university challenging ourself to raise high everyday, just as George Washington would have done during his time period. We model ourselves, just as many colonials did, to be great like our first president. The colonial is a symbol is triumph, fighting spirit, resourcefulness, and strength, as well.

We cannot change the fact that George Washington owned slaves, but we need to stop reinforcing terms that have negative connotations for certain populations.

Change it to the GW hippos, or even better to the GW water horses. Everyone thinks the hippo is the mascot anyway.

I don't see a problem with the Colonials moniker in terms of its history and derivation, and I think that the administration is wrongly overcompensating for a very small outspoken minority of mostly students. But, considering GW's lackluster sports programs, it would be nice to have a better mascot/moniker to support and build community at GW (which is something the University sorely needs), and therefore although I ultimately do not care about the moniker, a change to a different name such as the Hippos might be better overall. However, I would be in favor of renaming the Marvin Center.

There is a time and place for the removal of names/mascots from sports teams, buildings, streets, etc. In my opinion this is NOT one of those times.

Please take productive actions to change the moniker. There is no justifiable reason that this name is used to represent its student body and its affiliates.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

As I have said above, by rallying behind this moniker, we are rallying behind an (at best antiquated) extremely racist European notion that appropriation of land belonging to non-Caucasian peoples is justified by their (to the colonists) unfamiliar race and unfamiliar religion. This is an emblem that represents a very narrow Euro-centric view that the intellectual community is rejecting. It is a terrible emblem to represent the kind of inclusion and tolerance we want to embody as a university.

I think for students who are indigenous it is really disrespectful I also think that it makes students uncomfortable in general many people I have talked to have expressed frustration and disappointment in the merchandise that is sold many people have stated that they feel uncomfortable walking around with GW merchandise that has colonials written on it. In my opinion there is really no reason to keep it if a large population of people have been demanding change for so long. The Districts Of Columbia's own football team has changed their name because of outcry that has been long awaited and I think it is time to do the same for GW.

We've been the colonials for our entire history. My parents were proud colonials and so am I. While I understand that some people are negatively affected by the term, I feel it is an important part of both our school's history as well as our country's. Changing it does not change the past, but rather just attempts to sweep it under the rug

We are the George Washington University. There are about a dozen other monikers I can think of that would be more suited than "Colonials." Like I listed earlier, "Presidents" or "Continental" or even "Hippos" is FAR more accurate in terms of history or the GW experience.

I think that while the 'colonials' moniker provides clear imagery, George is a much more prominent picture in people's minds when picturing school spirit, and there are so many name options that can reflect George and still be inclusive. For example, a name that has gained a lot of popularity around campus has been the 'revolutionaries'. Same principle, still embodies George, but less exclusive.

The colonials moniker I always found sort of creepy and weird, and when I told people I was going to GW I'd always joke about how ugly the mascot was. But I LOVED the hippo mascot. The first piece of GW merch I ever bought, on the day I decided to attend GW, was the hippo sweatshirt, and my dad took a picture of me next to the hippo statue wearing it!! didn't make my college decision based off of the mascot (I think that would be silly) but if any were influential, the hippo was more so. I would LOVE it if we switched over to the hippo!

I am not trying to remove it because it is offensive. It's just not a good mascot. I'm a Syracuse Orange, a Rutgers Scarlet Knight, American Eagle, or Georgetown Bulldog. I am a GW Colonial? Like what?

I think Colonials is a silly name but for the love of God please don't change it to the Hippos like the rumors say. That'd be much worse.

The colonials moniker should not be changed just because some snowflakes dislike it. The moniker stands for the men and women who fought to establish this great nation and fight for the right to have such a petition - all the more reason to keep it.

Why is this taking so long? I'm a senior now and it feels like they been stalling and pushing back on changing this for years now. How much more red tape and bureaucracy is going to be pushed to slow this down. Why don't you create five more committees, a parliament, three more student organization, six more surveys, conduct 2,000 interviews, amend 13 different regulations, and rewrite the entire student code? Or why not just change it?

I think it is very important to change this moniker. We cannot continue to, even implicitly, glorify the acts of colonization which often were accompanied by genocides. The fact that for so long we have kept this moniker is shameful. As long as we are the "colonials" the university cannot claim to advocate for equality among its student body or state that it is committed to diversity and inclusion.

we have the hippo. its cuter and not problematic, like this isnt difficult make it the hippo.

It is more important to me to keep the namesake of GW than the colonial moniker.

Again, I understand what the colonial moniker means originally, but as this term causes harms to my friends with different identities, I am strongly in support of changing the name and make it more inclusive and neutral

why not pick a better mascot

Bruh like chill out

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I have no other feedback at this time.

The colonials moniker is racist. It brings forth a connotation of non-inclusivity and racism. Having black students attend while using the 'colonials' moniker shows a lack of support for all members of the GW community.

I think in the Spirit of GW Revolutionaries would be a more appropriate name

Deferring to the student body with polls like these is a step in the right direction.

As other organizations and teams update their outdated and often racist monikers, it's time for us to change as well.

If there is enough interest to get rid of the moniker, get rid of it. There are people who feel excluded or harmed by the moniker and it's much worse to keep the moniker around and hurt those people than change it and upset some people.

If the committee is considering changing the "Colonials" moniker, why hasn't it considered changing the name of the entire University? Not to say I would support that decision, but I'm curious when the rewriting of history comes to a conclusion.

The colonial is an important symbol of American history, resilience, and GWU. To view it as a negative term is ahistorical nonsense and only politicizes a non political issue. Using the logic that anti-colonial students use would require us to change the name of our university, which is ridiculous.

It always confuses me that we were called "Colonials" but we seem to be willing to use the hippo as our unofficial mascot

The hippo is a better mascot

Not only is it a boring, lame mascot, (let's go Lakers vs let's go Colonials-one is clearly worse and much longer), it's a pretty odd piece of our history to be chanting and constantly reminded of at sporting events of all things. Yes the intent wasn't to remind us all of slavery and native genocide, but it is there in our minds when we hear/think of colonials. It's just not a rosy enough part of our history to be a mascot. Simple as that. Animals work much better for mascots anyways-badgers, hawks, eagles, blue jays, hippos, even capybaras are fun. Colonials: boring and tainted with dark history = very bad mascot

Founders. A great name change would be to switch to 'the founders'. It is non offensive, the mascot can remain, and the level of prestige is not tarnished.

Please make our moniker "hippos!" They are cute, inoffensive, and innocent!

I am involved in a spirit organization, and I know it is very difficult to recruit and create a safe space for members of diverse identities when they are forced to promote school spirit for a mascot which makes them feel uncomfortable and unwelcome.

Besides the politics of the Colonials moniker, it is just a bad mascot in my opinion. It's weird to have a person as your mascot. I think the Hippo would be a better mascot and would just make more sense as a mascot.

I'm glad GW is taking this seriously and reassessing its relationship to this outdated term. Colonization is not something we should be proud of, especially considering that DC is already reckoning with the harmful prior name of the Washington Football Team. GW should not contribute to glorifying the people who murdered and displaced indigenous Americans with the moniker "Colonials."

If you change it, move towards something more aligned with George Washington and the founding fathers.

It is obvious that the "Colonial's" moniker is a racially sensitive topic. Therefore, BIPOC voices should be prioritized when making the decision whether to change it. Considering GW is an overwhelming white university, it is imperative that the administration does not just aim for general consensus. As a white student myself, I know all I can do on matters like these is educate myself on the opinions of BIPOC students and try to amplify their voices.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

If it is controversial remove it in the first place!

The Colonials moniker is a trivial issue that is taking up air in the room and distracting from real problems. I don't think we will truly get better as a society until more people take individual responsibility for their thoughts, feelings, behaviors, actions, emotions, etc., rather than targeting the elimination of things they disagree with, that offend them, or that they think doesn't include them.

This is literally the least we can do. Come on.

we should be the RIVER HORSES or HIPPOS please!!

I'm all for revisiting eponyms or legacies derived from legitimately oppressive or inflammatory historical events, figures, or personalities, but this is a bridge too far.

I think people have a very false, biased and twisted understanding of the "Colonials" moniker. I think the changing of this moniker is ridiculous and people take this term and twist it to what they want it to be and not what it has meant historically.

Colonial and colonialism is not something we should be proud of. Colonials killed millions of people in the name of white supremacy and Christianity. Unless this is what GW stands for it should not be our mascot.

Don't let the Liberals hijack George Washington, too.

I believe that the colonial moniker does not have a profound impact on GW students and that changing it would be a form of performative change that would not affect many students and would have an adverse effect of students.

Any and all efforts to remove the Colonials moniker are farfetched and ill-informed at best. Colonials were the members of society that lived in Colonial America. George Washington was in fact, a Colonial. The assumptions and points being made that the Colonials moniker is in any way racist, non-inclusive, or otherwise unacceptable in today's society is an over-investigative wild goose chase perpetrated by those that feel some sort of catharsis in erasing history. I love GW and I believe it is genuinely one of the finest private higher learning institutions in the USA, however if the moniker is changed I will never donate a dollar to the University again. We cannot allow small factions of ill-informed people with too much time on their hands to make drastic changes with poor information because it makes them feel better about themselves.

While I believe I understand the moniker to mean the colonists fighting to bring forward a new nation. Unfortunately, the moniker does bring to mind colonialism and its history. We should strongly consider changing the moniker.

From what I remember one of the options was "Revolutionaries" and I am for that if we change the moniker.

The association with colonialism and the associated poor treatment of people of color in this country makes it a poor mascot choice. On top of this and more minorly, it is not a good fit for a university located in a city that did not exist until well after the colonial period had ended, regardless of the university being named after a founding father. A better, more inclusive mascot should be chosen for the university

My ancestors were Colonials, I'm not.

Colonialism has been a destructive and exploitative term throughout history, and the our name should not reflect a legacy that our namesake fought to defeat. This should really not be a hard decision. I think George Washington is a cool mascot that does not need to be associated with exploitation. We are better than this.

As an a student-athlete who also is of a biracial family, (black and white), I personally do not believe there is an issue with the moniker.

The term colonial has not aged well and is arguably offensive. It would most likely be in everybody's best interest to change it regardless of how they feel about it.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Understanding my culture and my ancestry, my ancestors in the Philippines and my friends and family ancestors back home in Hawai'i - all had to deal with colonist mentality from ancient Filipino times to ancient Hawai'ian times. One example is how the Spanish conquistadors conquered the Filipinos for over 400 years, and there were Filipinos who were enslaved by these colonists. Their names were taken away and changed to Spanish names. A lot of history and culture was erased due to Spanish rule. A forced conformity to the Spanish rule made Filipino people forget about their true culture of being a Filipino. Also, Hawai'i was overthrown illegally, by the United States who illegally took land from Queen Liliuokalani through illegal annexation. In other words, threats were made to the Queen and to representatives of Hawai'i during that time to have Hawai'i be turned to Statehood, all because of monetary gain and businesses that were developed by foreigners in Hawai'i due to greed of a fertile land.

These are simple changes to make. The Washington Football team have finally shifted away from overt racist name for example, and this has been applauded by much of the city and indigenous people everywhere. The "colonials" can be seen as a softer, and less obvious, form of racist expression. However, I believe as a university community we have the capacity to look clearly at our past, amend monuments to the negative realities and histories, and move forward towards change. It is an honor to be a part of an institution that has existed as long as it has, as well as a responsibility to acknowledge the past and transform oneself.

Especially as a member of the Elliott School, I find the Colonials moniker to be antiquated and ridiculous, considering that I hope to go into foreign policy and diplomacy but am graduating from a school as a "Colonial."

I do not think we should be proud of the way this country was founded when it comes to the way we colonized America. I don't think it makes sense to cheer for our sports team under a name that describes people who stole land from native people. I think there are many other options that would be better represent our school and what it stands for.

GW students should be able to select a new moniker by popular vote if possible

I don't feel a personal tie to the moniker itself, but I do worry a lot about the amount of time and energy spent tearing down statues and dishonoring any group in which there were individuals who exhibited poor judgement and made mistakes. Every single people group on the face of the planet has had members that have made mistakes and done terrible things. To try and erase our history is a fraught endeavor. It loses sight of the incredible freedom and opportunity that was created by these colonials. They created a nation where individuals around the world still move to the US to this day for the opportunities it provides them.

The revolutionary spirit of the Colonials moniker is important, but it can be captured using other mascots. For example, a peace symbol or globe might be more appropriate to reflect GW's outward focus.

I attend George Washington University but I will NEVER feel proud to call myself a "colonial". Colonialism represents some of the most violent and destructive parts of history. Attending a school that attempts to paint the term in a positive light will always be a source of shame for me. We, as a GW community, are better than this.

To replace our moniker we should instead replace colonials with revolutionaries. This is a more acceptable term for the same ideals as the colonial founding but a politically correct statement. And George remains our mascot.

I do not like the Colonials as a name, because it references a troubling part of our nation's history. I feel that the hippo is a much better and more interesting mascot for our university as they are ferocious and powerful creatures that deserve more recognition.

KEEP IT OR I WILL TRANSFER FROM THIS SJW SCHOOL

It is a shame that GW is trying to erase history. George Washington was a "colonial;" this is a fact which cannot and should not be denied. Through GW's continual attempt to erase this history, which is essential to the foundation of this university and the city in which it is located, creates a complete lack of understanding and appreciation for our past. If GW prides themselves on their dismissiveness and disregard of factual history, then they should not proudly claim to be leaders in this realm. Academia is too concerned with being politically correct rather than putting time, money, and resources into matters which directly affect the students. It is evident that these efforts to erase the Colonial moniker, the name of the "Marvin Center," etcetera will eventually lead to a name change of the university. This is shameful. GW should use our past, which is suddenly viewed as offensive, to create more learning initiatives and educational opportunities. Simply changing a name does not undo anything that has happened in our past. GW is going down a dangerous path.

I think it is really out of touch to have the colonials moniker. It is offensive to any nation that was colonized and perpetrates a problematic view of colonizers and colonization. It is really disappointing and embarrassing as a student of color to see that the school is this out of touch in 2020



Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Recontextualization is needed but I like the affiliation with George Washington.

Colonial is an awful mascot to root for. George Washington Buccaneers

I oppose Colonials for the sole reason that the Revolutionary War was fought for the purpose of no longer being colonists, so it seems very silly to have chosen Colonials as the moniker for a school named after one of the nation's founders and most important army general. We should be "The Revolutionaries" or "The Continentals."

It's not a huge deal. Just change the name. There are basically zero actual downsides and it'll make people really happy

The hippo is just a better mascot because it is less creepy.

Honestly no matter how nuanced the origin of the moniker is we shouldn't be referring to colonialism as if it was a good thing.

When I decided to apply to and attend GW, I viewed the Colonials moniker as a negative aspect of GW. That feeling was partially reconciled when I found out about the unofficial hippo mascot which I could more easily support. Even changing the schools moniker to the "Revolutionaries" which was a proposed alternative seems like it would still have the problem of connecting the school to the racism of the founding fathers and the racism this country was built on.

I really don't like it, especially being from an actual colony of the US. Of course, it wasn't key in my decision making process when looking for universities, but it definitely was a turn-off.

Language is a moving target and there is probably no perfect answer. It may appease some people now to change the moniker, but may injure the perception of the University in the future. To have your flag wave in the direction of whatever the current zeitgeist is, arguably erodes the permanence of an organization. If the original moniker was selected with malicious intent, then there is little argument to keep it. If the original intent was innocent (and I'm inclined to think it was), to see it weather the dynamic interpretations of our cultures is quite noble. In fact, it may lend stability and promote unification & inclusivity if we can agree what words mean. To have a substantial organization, GW, assert a definition and say: "No, this is a symbol of the folks who stood up to enormous hardship, who took tremendous risks and eked out a living to ultimately bring this University as it stands today. It does not represent the misdeeds of those individuals. It represents their successes, their motivation to build something despite..." To change the name is to say this university is not something to be proud of. It's not perfect, but I respect the staff, the students and the heritage that are providing my education. Truthfully, I don't feel strongly about whether the moniker stays or goes. I do believe changing it won't cool any tensions or truly satisfy the demands of individuals. If language is as hyper-malleable as recent events suggest, there is little chance a large organization with responsibility can contort itself in time to react to change. Perhaps it is best to politely disagree and respect that we all have different opinions and understandings. We are diverse. We are capable of understanding a good intention doesn't always yield a perfect outcome. Another good intention this time around likely won't yield a perfect outcome either. I wish the best of luck whether you decide to change it or not. At the end of the day, I will call GW my alma mater.

Do not make our mascot a hippo. I am only in favor of changing the moniker if it is changed to "Continental," which sounds cooler. Plus, we can then say that our GWorld money isn't even worth a Continental.

I am in favor of removing the Colonials moniker and replacing it with "Hippos"

If this must be changed, which I don't think it necessarily has to be changed, it should stick to the theme of some form of revolutionaries, since we are named after George Washington and the revolutionary war was what he was mostly known for (other than being the first president).

I dislike the use of Colonials as the mascot and find its meaning a little offensive.

If y'all are gonna change the name you have got to make it something with the same connotations, like revolutionaries or continentals. Changing it to the Hippos would be dumb as hell, I've heard the actual story of how we got the hippo and making out mascot some statue that the president got plastered and bought would not exactly fill me with pride.

I believe that the moniker is an essential part of our school. We should not be ashamed of who we are as a school, we should embrace it.

I WANNA BE A HIPPO

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I am an athlete, and I understand the whole mascot thing, but in truth how necessary is it? We are not the only school with a colonial as our mascot, so therefore we are not special or unique for having it and it does not provide us some sort of specific positive effect. It does, however, invoke negative feelings in indigenous peoples and other colonized peoples and being a colonizer is not something one should be proud of. This invocation of negativity versus the fact that it provides no true benefit lead me to think it is not necessary to keep the Colonials moniker. Just please don't change it to something stupid, like the hippo. I do not want to play for the GW Hippos.

The colonials moniker feels out of touch, and as a student it is embarrassing to have to say that is our moniker.

Can we please be the Hippos. So much cooler and better and not offensive

Getting rid of the moniker is erasing history. It's performative. Changing the moniker will do nothing but look good on twitter for a few days. There are more important things leblanc needs to be focusing on.

Colonials were very obviously people who colonized indigenous groups, and carry with them a name of racism. If there are any students at all (which there obviously are) that don't feel included by this, then why keep it? Additionally, a "colonial" is not a mascot that can be chanted for at sporting events- I think an animal of some kind (like most other schools) would be totally fine.

The hippo should be our new mascot. You can even name him George the hippo.

We should just become the hippos

It is time to recognize/correct terms that are outdated and harmful to the GW community and image.

please let us use the hippo we already have one statue

This is a part of GWs History, we shouldnt have to change it. I am an African American, and it does not offend me

GW should and must remove the moniker and adopt a new one. It's one step that the university can take to reassure students, alumni and the wider community that it's committed to acting on promises of addressing racism, especially amid the last few scandals to emerge.

Consideration of changing the name is ridiculous

I think that GW should keep the Colonials moniker and educate students better on how the Colonial Army is an important part of US history that should not be forgotten. I do think that people should be aware of the differences between US colonials and their fight for independence that has brought us here today. Additionally, I think that people need to understand that the main function of learning history is changing your perspective to the people of that time period and learning from it. It is unfair to judge history based on today's standards and I think people should be more aware that history is powerful knowledge and should not be misused. In all, do not remove US history, as well as GWU's.

KEEP IT!

Re: the survey above - I "understand" the meaning and its intent, but I think the time has come to change the name. It may have been intended to remind us of the founding fathers, but, as it was likely chosen by white people, it ignores the other implications.

Colonials is an inappropriate moniker that broadcasts a history that should ashame GW rather than make it proud. We should pull on something from GW culture and history that reflect the true values we want to project.

I am not sure why anyone would want to run around calling themselves colonials given the violence, racism, and injustice at the core of European colonization.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Look, this is really easy. Change the name to the "Revolutionaries" or something, pick up the tag line "be revolutionary" and launch the rebranding as a program to remain on the forefront of education and progress. Launch STEM and social justice programs as part of the new brand. You can even keep the mascot and George and save a fortune. Heck, acknowledge the insensitivity and launch scholarship programs aimed at addressing the systemic inequalities created by western colonialism, with scholarships and informational/recruiting trips around the world, maybe commit to accepting a certain percentage of students from those countries annually. Again, this seems like a marketing no-brainer. The movement to acknowledge and address these things isn't going anywhere and is likely to pick up steam, so being one of the first to step up is only going to help the university's reputation. Please give me a reason to be proud of this university instead of making me need to defend it all the time.

Please focus on actual issues.

I prefer to be the Hippos, it is an essential part of our GW culture and identity and is far more inclusive

This country celebrates July 4 as Independence Day but it wasn't an equally celebratory time for the nation as a whole. That fact cannot go ignored

I think the Colonials moniker gives an exclusive feeling as opposed to an inclusive feeling. The moniker is not very welcoming and feels outdated in my opinion. I think GW as a community today represents much more than "colonials" in the historical context since we are such a diverse community where people come from all different kinds of backgrounds and cultures.

The people who want to change our moniker don't understand the intended meaning of "Colonials". We are named after the people of Colonial America, the predecessor to the United States and the people who stood up to British rule. We are NOT named after colonizers, people who ruined the lives of countless indigenous tribes throughout history. It's extremely important that we understand the context before making any rash decisions, especially one that might dramatically alter our school culture. It may just be a name, but it represents our school pride and is a rallying cry for current students and alumni.

I think the moniker is inconsistent with the University's stated desire to be more diverse and inclusive. Names matter. Words matter.

Stfu libs

we should be cautious about losing everything from the past in the current moment...we should consider staging the renaming decisions such that renaming occurs over a decade

I wonder sometimes if we spend an inordinate amount of time & energy with PCness. Also: not having been involved in the GW sports community either as an athlete, supporter or spectator, I guess I can see how some people may want a more compelling moniker or mascot. But then what's in a name outside of how it's branded?

We should be the Hippos or like the presidents or something

DONT CHANGE IT

Google how much it will cost to replace a mascot. Does GW really want to dedicate time and dwindling financial resources to change all the monikers and logos around the multiple campuses? I cannot think of a student who would agree to pay more on top of their already exorbitant tuition during a time of economic crisis to finance the redesigning, repainting, re-sculpting, re-printing, re-tiling and everything else that will come with the changing of the moniker. I'm pretty sure that in these UNPRECEDENTED TIMES there are better places the time and money could be spent. But I'm sure there will be enough people who support changing the moniker and will be upset when fees go up to cover the cost of patting themselves on the back for their "wokeness". This will be a very expensive consequence to the university's surveys' voluntary response bias, paid for by the students, present and future.

Aside from the fact that the term in itself is problematic, George Washington himself did not think of himself as a colonial. In fact he thought of the British of being a colonial ruler over him, which is why he led to the Revolutionary War. So the moniker really has no place at GW.

I like the buff and blue but something more inclusive and without a negative connotation would be better. I might suggest the hippo, except the inscription (which I just read for the first time on wikipedia just now) needs to be removed. Getting off topic now, but isn't a fantasy about white people gazing upon an African creature (the hippo) from their plantation porches while white children "lure them close" for good luck an example of whites furthering their own prosperity by making use of natives? I think most people don't realize what the inscription says, but it's pretty offensive.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Just change the name to the Hippos. It's honestly not a bad mascot and nobody can get mad at Hippos. Some of our clubs even use that mascot already.

Please listen to the concerns of your students.

I do not believe that the university should abandon the Colonials moniker. I believe it fits a school named for one of the most preeminent American colonists and that those who do not understand its meaning in this context, who misinterpret it and try to stretch to incorporate things that they feel are distasteful should be educated in the meaning it has here. No one insists that schools using vikings as mascots change because of the rape and pillage associated with some vikings. Just because some people feel that the word brings up some unpleasant, unfortunate occurrences of the American past does not mean that the moniker needs to be abandoned. One poor association does not need to destroy the positive meanings of a term.

You can never satisfy everyone, but thank you for asking us.

It's not a good look, especially nowadays. There are ways to incorporate George Washington without using the term "colonial." Like "rebels" or something more harmless that still invokes the revolutionary aspect.

I understand why some people are against the moniker, but under that presumption, would the university's name itself not have to change, being that George Washington is arguably the most famous American colonial?

It is ignorant for a school, whose courses teach the evils of colonial rule and imperialism, to have a colonial moniker. The mass genocide of Natives and enslavement of African Americans is nothing to be slapped on as representative of our school.

Any issues aside, it's a boring name that won't afford the school any extra attention other than when its teams are performing well. I imagine there is a better moniker out there to be adopted that wouldn't be controversial in any way and would also be more exciting for the school, its teams, students and fans.

This sudden need to rename everything is ridiculous.

I have no strong feelings about the matter, but I understand why some of my fellow students may want the moniker changed, and I support the drive to change it.

I'm sure students would love a say in choosing the new moniker should it come to this.

I think removing the colonials moniker would be appropriate, though I don't think would support some related suggestions like changing the school's connection to George Washington that may significantly detract from the school's identity which is part of the value of any degree earned.

I can understand the argument to change the name, but you can't change history. The moniker represents the history of how our country was founded, which can't be changed. Additionally, the moniker is not derogatory or meant to promote, by any means, negative connotations.

This is utterly ridiculous. Everybody understood the meaning of the moniker and took no offense at it until the march of the Critical Theory cult through Western institutions. This poisonous dogma is making people artificially fragile, the fact that the University is wasting time and money on deciding whether or not to raze part of its cultural history at the behest of a vocal, artificially fragile mob is very depressing indeed.

The idea that Americans cannot or should not have a positive association with the term "Colonials" is absurd, especially as intelligent, well-educated adults we should be able to differentiate between the connotations of being colonizers or colonized, and how critical of a period this was in our history. If it \*must\* be changed, I support either "Continentials" or "River Horses."

I'm a brown immigrant. This complete waste of valuable resources over such a minute and trivial issue is absolutely disturbing. The school administration needs to stop catering to the whims of privileged young Americans and focus more into the mission of education.

This moniker is demeaning to BIPOC members of our community!

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

The unofficial hippopotamus meaning is unclear to me. Though "cute" I prefer the colonial due to the connection with George Washington and the 1st settlers from Europe.

I understand that it's an expensive decision to make but I really don't think it's a crazy ask, especially when we have so many international students and students whose families were affected by colonialism

I don't even get why this is still a debate. It's racist. Get rid of it!!

Revolutionaries, Patriots, Continentals (after the continental army and congress).

Would love to change it to "Revolutionaries"

GW's use of 'colonials' is different than the generic definition of the word that many students have an issue with. However, due to the checkered past of the term, our founding fathers, and GW's initiative to change many names across campus, removing the name makes sense given the controversy and concern regarding this moniker.

We should not be called the "Colonials" because it is really offensive and promotes a phenomenon that has destroyed communities.

The moniker has to be changed. If GWU wants to be a place that is welcoming to all, especially thinking about indigenous students, staff, and faculty, this name has to go. It is a slap in the face for communities that have and continue to face oppression through the US system. A cartoon version does not erase that very painful history. We should be the GW Hippos!

Probably best to change it so people calm down and stop getting mad

History is an important part of lives as Americans, and I feel the term honors the legacy of this country and the founding fathers.

"Colonial," sounds cute, but really reflects a white-male centric perspective and basically ignores that Colonial America was a pretty awful place for pretty much everybody, including white men w/o land or money. As American reckons with its violent past and tries to atone and make amends, it would be good for us to consider a better name than one that literally has the basis for "colonizing" in it.

By eliminating a name from history does not remove what occurred in the past. George Washington was considered a colonial, our colors are that of the continental army, just because we currently have a negative connotation of colonialism does not change the past in that we are better because we were a colony that rose up. So to say that the name "colonial" is offensive is ignorant and blind to history. The Colonial moniker should stay forever and if it changes will make me think much less of this great university I chose to be apart of when it was the Colonials.

While the name itself does not offend me personally, I understand its impact on others especially from different backgrounds than mine. I would support the name change to something more accurate to our own meaning behind colonials. I associate colonials with the men and women who fought England for independence. Therefore a more appropriate moniker would be "Revolutionaries" because that's what our moniker is truly meant to be. It's meant to represent our history as a nation of freedom and liberty and how we fought for our own ideals and continue to fight. I also think it would be highly applicable to today's students where we are revolutionizing each of our own fields whether that be business, medicine, law, politics, history, language or a plethora of other subjects.

GW should do a better job of informing people about what a "colonial" really is so we wouldn't even have been debating this pointless idea of a name change in the first place.

It really depends on what the planned replacement is; I'm hesitant to fully support its removal without first knowing that.

Personally, I didn't have a huge problem with the 'Colonial' mascot (especially since I'm a first-year), but since the majority of GW voters favour its replacement, I'm fine with removing it.

Though the intention of the meaning was not meant to be negative, the fact that our mascot is a white male and we are the 'colonials' feels hurtful, tactless, and ignorant to the past suffering of people affected by colonialism and by European settlement of America. It takes away from the integrity of the university.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I support changing to the Hippos, as it's fun and means something to the student body, and it's not problematic!

This kind of stuff is getting ridiculous

Because no other names for choosing, I would be in favor of colonials. But if there has other good names, maybe answer is different.

We don't need any negative connotations about this school and its people.

I strongly oppose changing the moniker of Colonials. This is not a controversial name when understanding the context that it is in reference to the inhabitants of colonies that rose up in revolution, not from the perspective of colonizing indigenous peoples. I really feel like we have gone too far if we change Colonials. There needs to be more nuance and some thicker skin in our society today, and I am as liberal as they come. Take pride in our name, remember context.

Just get rid of it, be on the right side of history for once. Not that hard.

Only ok with switching it if we become the hippos

GW is GW with or without the Colonials moniker. The students, staff, faculty, and alumni make up this place, not the name of our sports teams. Why keep it when there are more representative names out there that lift up school spirit without cheering for a practice that led to the massacre of so many peoples.

As an American growing up abroad, this is not the messaging we want to promote in the US or internationally.

Colonials is gender inclusive and supportive of all

Member of a colony, primarily associated with the original 13 Colonies of the United States. In no way does Colonial come across with any of the negative connotations that are suggested in the proposed renaming. This action seems to be nothing more than an attempt to "topple another statue" associated with our history.

I personally think we should be the revolutionaries or the hippos!

While I am in favor of certain name changes (ie the Marvin Center) this is completely unnecessary. Anyone who knows anything about the history of our university and wants this name changed is just looking for something to be offended by. It's not hard to distinguish the meaning of the word colonials here from other negative uses of the word.

American colonials became colonizers - a feedback loop that shouldn't be ignored. It should not be a rallying cry to declare oneself proudly under another's control, and in rising to power become the oppressor. The hippos is a fun and funky alternative! Literally almost anything else would be acceptable.

let's change it to something kinder like the hippos, etc.!

The whole issue lies in a convergence of 1) a small group of intl. students who experienced misunderstandings while abroad wearing "Colonials" merchandise and 2) a somewhat larger group of students who vilify the founding generation itself, including George Washington. That is a fringe view outside the environs of Washington, DC. It should be resisted.

There are real problems that have actual consequences on people. The time spent opposing this moniker achieves nothing of substance. I urge opponents to direct their attention to problems with actual consequences.

I haven't met another GW student that is in favor of keeping the colonials label. It is associated with everything that's wrong in this world. Also, it's ugly and terrifying. Why do you think no one shows up to watch GW teams play? Because rooting for a colonial sounds dumb and white-savior-y. Please change it.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Even if people argue that removing the "Colonials" moniker will erase essential parts of history, we can still take steps to ensure that colonialism is not forgotten, but also not idolized.

Personally, the change won't really effect me but I do think we should be the Continentals (as in the Continental Congress/Continental Army)

This is a part of the making of our county. It cannot be erased and not much of what it represents is bad. There is no reason to change the moniker that would be the same as changing the entire name of our university. The past is the past and there is no reason to pretend it didn't happen and we should be proud of the making of our country.

Please god, don't just remove the name in favor of something similar to the Washington Football Team. That would be lazy and far less useful than keeping a divisive name.

We have an unofficial mascot already, we really can just make it the official one. I don't think anyone is particularly upset about River Horses or Hippos

If students, staff or alumni are feeling uncomfortable, or offended by this moniker, then why not change it? In my experience students at GW do not feel connected to the moniker, especially being that we don't have any major sports teams that students root for. What is the harm in changing it?

Changing the moniker would be akin to rewriting history. Where we came from is set in stone, a mere re-naming does nothing to help us meet the lofty goals set out by the colonials who were our founders.

I don't find this moniker offensive and I embrace it

The colonial moniker excludes all of GW's students of color and is highly uncomfortable. I do not want to cheer for or buy clothes that have "colonials" on them — it is honestly embarrassing.

Change the mascot to hippos as everyone prefers it.

I feel very strongly that this moniker should be changed; it is very problematic and outdated.

I understand the meaning behind the name; however, it isn't safe to keep such name due to the multiple connotations behind it

I am a West Point graduate, former Army Officer, and American history is a passion of mine. I generally find the student activism around this topic baffling, but I don't look at the world through the Howard Zinn Marxist lens like most of the elected student government. I would suggest something like "Continentials" or "Patriots" as alternatives, but I have zero doubt that the most vocal on this issue will not be happy with any of these alternatives. Whatever you do here will set the precedent for when people inevitably push to rename the university.

You gotta keep this... enough with caving in to change things that should not be simply to adhere to "cancel culture"

Please, do not change the name.

Seeing as the Colonials moniker hasn't impacted my GW experience, I have no preference on changing it or not. If a majority of the GW population wishes to change it, I am more than happy to support them and vice-versa.

The reason I am in favor of removing the Colonials moniker is because even if it doesn't bother me or affect me in any strong way, I want to respect the views and feelings of my peers. If there are students that feel uncomfortable and discriminated against by the symbolism of colonialism and its effects, then I will always respect that. Therefore, we should get rid of it and work towards a moniker that is more inclusive and less divisive.

Each person deserves to be treated with dignity and respect as an individual made in the likeness of God. To group people by the hue of their integuments is to deny them agency in choosing their own paths in life. There are good and bad people from all backgrounds and appearances. What makes them good or bad is how they behave in the world, not what they look like or what group an academic or politician assigns them to so that they can be manipulated. Critical race theory and the revisionist history it calls, for is just a subset of Marxism, which is evil in all its forms.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I want to be clear that I am a person who directly benefitted from colonials in my ancestry. However, we all need to acknowledge that the people who came here to colonize, no matter what they were fleeing from in Europe, felt that they were entitled to this land, despite the presence of native people. While we should not ignore the ugly parts of our history, we should not celebrate them, either.

If people feel offended by the name, then change the name, just please chose a better name than Hippos. Funny joke, not a good actual name.

I think it's well time to change the moniker, especially as the Washington Football Team has finally decided to retire their long criticized moniker. I don't believe we can be serious about making GW a more inclusive place while the symbols of oppression of BIPOC still are physically emblazoned on the university itself and on its students.

I don't feel strongly one way or another, but the university should probably change the moniker, as people are rightly offended by it.

It is racist and exclusionary to keep a mascot that celebrates violence against Native Americans. George Washington was also a slave owner and so to celebrate him and the acts of his fellow colonizers is to indicate that the Black and Brown lives that suffered because of them are worth less than the lives of the white colonials. This sends a really strong negative message to students of color that they are not valued and GW as an institution is unwilling to change despite widespread criticism that the "colonials" mascot is problematic. I don't know anyone who would proudly cheer for the colonials because we understand how racist it is. This severely damages any sense of school pride or any positive relationship students might have with the GW administration.

In the context GW uses the word 'colonial,' it is known to be a synonym for a soldier in the American Revolutionary War.

Colonialism is offensive everywhere with violent colonial pasts, from India, Latin America, Ireland, and the United States. As a person of Irish descent it is bewildering to me as to why the University would want to celebrate the practice that led to the Great Hunger (Potato Famine), and I cannot begin to imagine how much more uncomfortable the term is for the Indigenous American community at GW, seeing as colonialism here resulted in the near extinction of their peoples. George Washington, while a deeply flawed individual, can continue to be thoughtfully honored for his military and political leadership. The practice of colonialism prior to his involvement in revolutionary politics is not something he has or should be celebrated for in the United States. If anything, a moniker such as "revolutionaries" or "continentals" (ie, soldiers of the continental army) would make more sense than "colonials." I am also in favor of a non-historical/political moniker, especially since the hippo is already a quasi-mascot of the university.

it is an offensive term for many people and it is time for a change

Colonial is an individual who either is attending or attended George Washington University and should be left as is. That name creates a bond between past and present students, eliminating would most likely affect future interactions and tiebacks to the school both financially and in spirit. People will always find something to complain about, for which you'll never be able to satisfy 100%. Go forward with using the term colonials as students and alumni and be done with this.

This moniker and mascot has been deemed one of the worst out of all US colleges many times. It is male-centric, Euro-centric, and does not reconcile our country and our world's grotesque history to do with colonization. Colonizers are not to be celebrated. There is virtually no school pride at GW anyway, so a new mascot and moniker could very well revamp a sense of community. There is no reason whatsoever for GW to retain the colonials moniker, and if there is, it should be made known to all students. Transparency as to why and when this decision will or will not be made is essential. We are students, not children. We have a vested interest in the future standing of GW as a school, we will be your alumni, and we could be your donors if you represent us well.

Although Colonials might have different meaning to different people, the word itself has negative connotations that reflects bad on the school

George Washington as a mascot can stay, but the name associated with his image should change to something like "pilgrims", "homesteaders", "pioneers", "patriots", "trailblazers", etc. (basically, any other synonym for being leaders of a new place, as George Washington was).

Good luck!

I think the Colonials moniker is not offensive (it is not "colonizers"), and I do not think a name change is required. If others are reasonably offended by the name for reasons of which I am not aware, however, I have no issue changing the name.



Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Any moniker will be either meaningless, fabricated, or subject to some sort of negative connotation. Something like "Revolutionary" is equally subject to negative connotations. It is possible to celebrate the general positive impact of colonialism on the United States and even use it as a moniker without endorsing the bad conduct of some colonialists.

Colonials worked to actively exclude many people who go to this school. Many were segregationists and not only allowed but promoted discriminatory policies against BIPOC and LGBTQ+ communities. I, along with all of my friends, would not be allowed to attend this school if colonials were still in charge. It would be an easy change to find a mascot that represents everyone.

Please don't bow to the outrage mob that looks every day for something to be offended by. This would be a slippery slope.

Please do not make a lateral move and just give the Colonial moniker a new coat of paint (ie. changing from Colonial to Continentals/George's Army). Don't be afraid to take a risk and try something new (or something with broad student support like the Hippos). Also, please be sure to include students, staff, and faculty in the final decision.

As a white person, I don't think my opinion matters nearly as much as the opinion of people of color who may be disproportionately affected by this.

It is embarrassing enough to be under George Washington, a slave owner's name, but to all be branded as colonials when at this school we all learn how terrible colonialism was is just tacky and bad taste.

Although I certainly can appreciate traditional sentiment and institutional heritage, there are too many unoffensive potential monikers to choose from to stick with something that many in today's society now find offensive and embarrassing.

If the "Colonials" is deemed inappropriate as a school moniker then it will not be long before George Washington will be deemed inappropriate as a school name. The cost of changing these names is not cheap. Low estimates for changing the name of the Redskins football team are around 3 million dollars (Feldman, Sportico.com). If this university begins to legitimize these rebrandings it will not stop at the name of our mascot; the university's name will be called into question and more and more rebranding campaigns will be enacted. Who will bear this cost? Most likely the students. Our university already faces a growing debt and can ill-afford to spend its money on these sort of frivolous crusades.

Roll hippos

The Europeans who came to the colonies were colonizers. Regardless of intention, the name cannot be separated from the suffering they inflicted on Africans and Native Americans. I have done my best to ignore GW's mascot, and will definitely never buy any merchandise that carries the "Colonials" moniker.

There's gotta be an option out there that can represent how unique this university is. Truthfully I think GW has an incredible reputation and the power to be cheeky. I think Hippos would be a good one because of the university's personal history with it. But I know GW can pick a better mascot that can honor the university's story or history while serving all communities that are part of this university.

Should be the Hippos

It has always been a distasteful name and it is good to change it

I understand the direct reference is not to the process of colonization, but the connotation is unfortunate and brings to mind "colonial powers" invading and overtaking indigenous peoples (including the natives of the DC area, the Anacostans, the Piscataway, and the Pamunkey).

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I get that tradition is meaningful to people and I fully believe that the vast majority of people who like the colonials moniker do not endorse colonialism. However, we really have to understand what this word means for people around the world, and people who are descendants of the Native Americans who were colonized who also attend GW and interact with GW students. GW prides itself on the global citizenship of its students. However, keeping the colonial moniker neglects to acknowledge that GW students going abroad will continue to carry the baggage of colonialism, and will likely interact with people who have directly suffered from colonialism. Keeping the moniker is just too insensitive to those who have suffered from colonials. It's like if we had a portrait of Aristotle outside of the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies' program space with his quote "a woman is perhaps an inferior being." Sure Aristotle made some important contributions to philosophy, just as some colonials have written the Declaration of Independence, but that doesn't mean therefore it is justified for Aristotle to be the mascot of the WGSS, which would vehemently disagree with him, just as it is not justified for GW to keep the colonials, as many of us disagree with the practice of colonization. I hope you take this into consideration. I know I cannot speak for those who have been colonized so I would rather defer to them for their opinions, but since I have heard lots of my colleagues disagree with the practice, so I feel that it is imperative that we listen to those who are directly affected by being associated with the term "colonial."

I am an international student from a postcolonial country. For us, colonialism refers to Europeans formally taking over a territory usually on the basis that we (racialized as non-white) were not capable of managing ourselves or the territory we were on. Such a moniker will easily give the impression that GW isn't serious about attracting international students outside the West. I understand that the term "colonial" could be construed to have a somewhat different meaning in the US. Two responses: 1. Caveats always blunt the message. If GW is serious about attracting students from formerly colonized spaces, it's so much harder to have to apologize for what will always initially feel like an insult. It always makes GWU appear American-centric (dare I say American-first), and uninternational. 2. From my understanding, the only reason why "colonials" seems acceptable here is because they referred to European settlers who never left. It's hard not to see what history of precolonial peoples are being erased by making the term the identity of a university.

change the moniker. we could be the revolutionaries or the continentals

I don't understand why this is controversial. Indigenous students and their allies have been saying for years that this moniker is offensive. Nobody I know at GW feels a connection to this name, they feel a connection to the school and its people. Its people want to change the name. It's time.

I am an immigrants daughter. I do not believe there is anything wrong with the colonial name. There is no need to erase history

The Hippo moniker has a much stronger connection to GW than the colonials do

Please consider the motivation for this potential change. Is it truly motivated out of a desire for inclusion, or is it motivated by fear, ideology, and a desire to appease a small but powerful and vocal group of people? If the latter, changing the moniker and the names of some buildings will not be enough. If the latter, consider the possibility that the majority of people are not upset by the Colonials moniker, nor do they feel excluded by it. Consider that this majority may not be particularly invested in the conversation. They're more interested in their practical, daily concerns of working and studying and maintaining relationships than the potential implications of a word. This majority may also be afraid to voice their concerns for fear of being falsely labelled or accused. How polarized is the political discourse at GWU? Is there a culture of attacking, accusing, or singling out people with differing political principles? Is there a culture of assuming anyone who doesn't toe the preferred political line or worldview is a bigot, Nazi, racist, sexist, or some other villain? Is there a culture which promotes only certain wings of activism while ignoring, suppressing, or even attacking others? If there is such a culture at GWU, then it is more likely that you're considering changing the colonials moniker for the wrong reasons.

I'd rather have the hippo

I think it's awful that GW LOVES to pride themselves on its inclusion and diversity yet continues to use a moniker that is so deeply rooted in racism in all capacities. The fact that there is even a discussion about the problematic moniker shows that people do take offense to it and I think if GW truly values inclusion the way it says it does it would listen to its students who feel deeply troubled by having to refer to themselves as a colonial. Instead something like the hippos which already has been adopted by the majority of the students and is completely unproblematic would be a much better alternative.

Though they may not have been the best people, it is part of our history that Connor be forgotten. I also feel it fits the school very well

I am a doctoral student so I don't have as much "GW pride" as undergraduates might, so I am just affected by my interpretation of the word "Colonial." It is not strongly tied to my idea of GW. I have no motivation to keep it

Frankly speaking, if it is changed please consider changing it to the Hippos. Who doesn't like Hippos? There would be no way you ever have to change the mascot ever again unless a Hippo breaks free & goes on a killing spree (joke, sorry if you don't find it funny not everyone has a golden sense of humor like myself (another joke, sorry.)). Also the branding opportunities would be very good.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Can we be the LeBlanc Clowns instead?

I understand the desire by some students to change the moniker, but there are several reasons why I believe they're misguided. Firstly, the terms "colonial" and "colonizer" are two separate words with two separate meanings, and people seem to be confusing them. Second, I believe that much of the reason why some students are advocating for the change is simply because our student population is very political and tends to be quite progressive. That's fine, but pretty much everyone outside of GW isn't nearly so, and the vast majority of the population (maybe with some outliers in some places) does not think that the term "Colonial" is racist, ignorant, or in any way problematic. Most people just equate it with the founding of the country and the founding fathers (hence George Washington). Finally, changing the name would require a massive investment into all of our merchandise, branding, buildings, communications - I absolutely do not think that this should be a financial or emotional priority when our school is already facing difficulties in these areas due to Covid-19. The Colonials moniker is a symbol of school spirit and community at a school where we need them now more than ever, especially since we're a big city school and those two things aren't as automatic as they would be in somewhere like a state school. I do not think this would be a favorable move among alumni or other donors either, who would rather see the school's energy go towards things like academics, tuition assistance, sports, extracurriculars, research, and other programs. Thank you to whoever took the time to read this!

GW has a lot of work to do to ensure racial justice for all our students and ensure our reputation. This is an important step for the administration to take, to remove the moniker. It's a question of what we stand for, and for students of political science, history, and the humanities, standing for "colonialism" via "the colonials" is incongruous with our education and determination to fight for social justice.

I understand why people think the name is a reference to Colonialism or oppression. However, since the word has a double meaning and the intention was to honor "people who inhabit a colony" then maybe it's ok to leave it? The core issue really is how much we should change things that have a double meaning that were not intended to offend. It's not a simple decision, however, it's just a mascot. No one's life (other than former student athletes) are likely to be offended. Good luck.

Personally I don't have a strong opinion, but I feel like it divides the community and I feel kind of awkward about the genocidal connotations that people bring up.

It is 2020. With all due respect, please hang it up. Nothing is fun or exciting about colonialism.

Would this mean the university mascot would be changed also?

I would like to change our name to the Continentals for historical accuracy, but please anything but the Hippos.

See above. Also, this survey could have been better designed. For instance, asking whether the Colonials moniker affected one's decision to attend GW does not give information on whether that impact was positive or negative (i.e. did a student choose GW because they thought the moniker was awesome, or decided NOT to attend because they felt it was harmful?)

Consider switching to the Hippos, hippos are not only apex predators but it would fit into the lore of George Washington with the original rumor there were hippos in the Potomac.

As an international student from South Africa, I was surprised when I first learnt of GW's use of 'Colonials' as a moniker that it expects its student body to rally behind and be proud of.

Colonization is not something to celebrate. Thus, the "Colonials" moniker is inherently divisive, dated, and highly offensive.

go hippos

There are plenty of other moniker options that could reference DC's place in US government (or not!) without feeling so icky.

In the US we have to acknowledge our colonial past that has destroyed cultures that were here thousands of years before Europeans ever arrived. It would be nice to have a mascot that represents and unites the entire student population.

I feel more empowered by "Raise High" than I do "Colonials". If I'm correct in that the replacement moniker would involve a hippo, I would be completely fine with it. In the end, I will support whatever is best for the GW community.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Please do not change the heritage of the school. The student body was is and always will be Colonials.

I would be in favor of changing our moniker to the Revolutionaries

we should just be the Hippos

This is a moment for you all to do the right thing. Get rid of it, it is EMBARRASSING. I will never buy any merch with the mascot's name on it.

I find that the Colonials moniker is not something that should represent GW. I am uncomfortable cheering on such an offensive mascot and think it is time, especially in the current political climate, to make a change that accurately reflects the spirit of GW.

It's a stupid name. There are better names available that are more thematic to George Washington himself, for example "the Founders" or some such. It's a bad look and drives many students of color away.

Personally, I feel as though keeping the "Colonials" moniker accepts and almost condones the violence brought upon Native Americans by the colonists and the efforts over the centuries to practically eradicate their influence and culture in this country. I would really like to see discussion about other monikers that would better represent the GW community and our willingness to make change to better portray the diversity within our school.

I don't want the moniker to be a word that reminds me of my colonial heritage which I am trying to detach myself from. Colonialism fucked the world up and GW having the colonial moniker feels like we are celebrating it.

The history of the man George Washington, is that of resistance against England and for self rule. George Washington the school should celebrate his stance against England. I appreciate the fact that George Washington the man was a slave holder and that is wrong. On balance, helped the young nation and was an inspired leader. Please keep the Colonials moniker.

Hippos are not offensive and much cuter

I think if it causes harm, which I (as a white woman) think it does, it should go. It's in bad taste at this point.

I think that it has a sizeable impact on the development of school spirit and pride at GW. As a Black student on campus, the colonial moniker is not representative of the extreme diversity of GW and of DC as a city. It prevents me from embracing my school as a source of pride. I have difficulty attending sporting events and school functions that center around support of the colonial moniker. Additionally, we are fortunate to have an excellent alternative to the colonial that is already well known on campus and accepted as the unofficial mascot: The Hippo. GW should utilize this opportunity to show solidarity with the students of color on campus in removing the hateful moniker.

Why can't we just be the hippos? It's already a super popular mascot.

we should be the hippos

This whole thing is beyond stupid and I'm even more ashamed to go to this school than I was before.

There isn't a country in the world today that hasn't participated in colonialism at some point in its history. It's true that a term like "Colonials" carries different connotations. Native Americans suffered greatly as a result of English settlers, and the westward expansion of the United States. But it's also true that American colonists were fighting their own battle for justice against the English empire, which is ultimately what the moniker is referencing. In this regard, if the moniker is going to be replaced, I think we should choose a name in keeping with the spirit of the American Revolution. A moniker like "Hippos" (regardless of the statute) is not connected to the university's namesake ("George Washington University"), and the spirit of its founding, which was a national university. Speaking of George Washington, a significant number of people opposed to the moniker also seem content (perhaps supportive) of the removal of statues of George Washington, Ulysses S Grant, and other pivotal American leaders around the country. It's not unreasonable to be concerned whether we're ultimately on the road to changing the university's name at some point. In summary, if you want to change the name, then change it. But don't frame the debate as one where people are either against the atrocities of colonialism or for/indifferent to them. That's disingenuous, and it ultimately turns what could be a reasonable conversation into an unreasonable one. And don't choose a moniker that is a 180-degree turn from the spirit of the university, and its namesake.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

some of this renaming has gone way too far. if it is changed, it will impact my decision to continue with my annual giving to the school.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to our frustrations, and consider this change. It is much appreciated.

Hippo should be the mascot. Unproblematic king.

Stop conceding to woke virtue-signaling. There is a population of the student body and prospective student body who think you are clowns for caving to a small minority of pressure to look woke.

Time and resources would be better spend on finding a vaccine for COVID-19, and I do not think this is a productive use of this schools time and resources- you cannot just erase history, resources would be better spend on education of this matter.

MAKE IT THE HIPPO ITS SO CUTE

If you find "colonials" offensive, you are an idiot. It's not very complicated.

I am in favor of making all students feel safe on campus. GW tends to tokenize students of color and international students, instead of support them.

Can't we just change our mascot to just simply george washington himself. ive never heard of gw colonials being our actual mascot because its always just george washington

It's way easier to make memes about a hippo

Stop trying to erase/rewrite American history because of a few extremely loud idiots.

Keeping the moniker endorses colonialism and its inherent violence. This sends a message to students with ancestors who experienced colonialist violence (or any student of color, since colonialism is inseparable from white supremacy) that GW Does not care about them or their pain. It trivializes the suffering colonialism imposed and continues to impose.

This is an important moment where we can right historical wrongs, please do not waste it.

I think the colonials moniker is both historically inaccurate and excluding of the diverse student body GW now possesses. If the goal is to honor our colonial era leaders/founders, the name "Continentalists" would make more sense, as it is the name they gave to Congress as well as the name George Washington gave his own army. It would make sense that the people fighting to free themselves from colonial rule would not want to be called colonials themselves, which is why it is so confusing that we chose this moniker in attempt to honor them. The "colonials" moniker also creates an easy connection and passive endorsement to colonialism as a concept, which I know is a widely held belief on campus and is ultimately a divisive and non-inclusive moniker.

I think this whole thing is quite frankly a waste of time. Right now, there are much more important things to be worrying about, like making sure students still have access to adequate mental health resources online and ensuring that financial aid is unaffected by this economic crisis.

Maybe change it to honor the indigenous people in the area at the time, though I'm not sure if that might cause more harm

Replace it, but pick something interesting.

Dude like just change it if it offends people. Does not offend me at all, but like if it offends people who tf cares if we keep it

Hippos! It's fun and quirky and doesn't have to do with American colonies that brought over diseases that killed millions of Native Americans as well as forced those indigenous to America out of their homes.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I am not fully informed on this, but would like to be

I love GW, but when I see the word "Colonials" in conjunction with this school, it makes me feel embarrassed to be here. I think it's outdated and makes GW look unwelcoming to those whose ancestors were brutally treated by colonists. I'm really glad to see this being reevaluated.

It needs to be changed. Period.

I sent a letter to the President, committee leadership, and others expressing my opinion on the need to keep all names the same. We honor people for their exceptional act, not for their mistakes.

Hippos please

How can our university claim to support its minority students when cheering on a moniker that honors, celebrates, and glorifies colonization?

I am in favor of removing as long as it is not changed to the hippo. Continentals, as in the Continental Army, makes the most sense

To make a decision to keep the Colonials moniker would be a huge mistake, signaling a commitment to upholding the out-dated and harmful white-supremacist ideals that shaped our nation and continue to harm ALL of its people. Please do the right thing and show leadership in paving the way forward through these times.

I think the term has come to represent negative connotations that are not in keeping with the goals of the university. I feel it has outlived its purpose and is in need of revision.

This entire movement by the student union and others is an incredible waste of time for all. The term colonials is historic, and to the person of average intelligence points to the patriotism and independent spirit of early colonists fighting for their freedom and independence from foreign rule: a development in the spirit of freedom and independence that, in fact, eventually also led to the freedom of enslaved people's in America—even if not immediately. Further, the initial petition which painted nearly every building and monument's namesake as racist, genocidal, and/or imperialist was almost completely utter nonsense save for perhaps one historical person who it could be reasonably stated should not have a namesake. If all of this is being considered as offensive to black Americans and ignoring of the history of enslaved Americans, then GWU should also entirely change its very name. How far do people want to take this and waste everyone's time? I've already wasted more time than needed just in writing this. And now look how much of the school's resources have been wasted on this fruitless endeavor to please those who insist on calling our country inherently racist and imperialist and ignoring the rest of the facts and the other side of our history.

I don't think this is as much of an issue as renaming other academic buildings.

A mascot is just a mascot. I feel no sense of community around the Colonials mascot. It doesn't affect my experience at GWU on any level. Changing it is not a big deal and if it helps other students feel seen and not discriminated against then changing it should be an easy decision in my mind.

I think it is a great way to honor our country's founders and those who fought for our freedoms.

In addition to the moniker not being inclusive for some of the students, faculty, and alumni, I think it's boring and could be made more exciting.

I strongly think that to promote an environment of inclusivity and consideration of all peoples, the GW moniker should be removed and replaced. Maybe senators, swamp monsters, gold devils, as replacement names

Hippos FTW

I believe that the university should keep the colonials moniker. We can't wipe our history clean and the moniker has been part of this institution for a very long time.

Keep the monomer as is. the school is increasingly reactionary

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I honestly don't care and feel it should be changed if a lot of people are offended by it. I do think we should remember it if we do change it. For example, we should change or moniker to the "Hippos" (one of the most feared animals in Africa and an unique name) but our mascot should be dressed in a blue continental uniform with white wig and three corner hat. He can be cartoonish like the characters in the animated Robin Hood (where Robin Hood is a fox).

The hippo is the obvious choice for a replacement and would foster a much more inclusive environment at this university.

It's ridiculous that not only the school is considering changing the mascot, but it's quite frankly embarrassing that there is so much being done about it—it's a mascot, not a new degree offering. I find it deeply concerning that this is still a priority for the administration considering how poorly they have handled the pandemic in all stages compared to other schools during last spring, this fall, and now next spring. The administration messed up with the timing of sending us home in the spring and retrieving our belongings (which still have not been reunited with many students); they only gave a 2-week notice that we wouldn't be returning in the fall; and now despite so many other schools successfully reopening, including urban schools such as BU, Northeastern, and NYU, they decided to remain closed and take away an entire year of college from their students without any regard for the significantly decreased quality of education we are getting online. Even American University has announced plans to reopen next spring more than GW will. There is such a small minority of students who actually care about what the mascot is so it bothers me that there is so much action being taken about it while students are stuck at home taking overpriced online classes and barely learning anything, with seemingly nothing being done about it. Right now I hope that the administration focuses on the problem at hand, which should be its mishandling of the pandemic and the poor education that students are currently getting, not a focus on renaming a pointless mascot that few people care about and that nobody will even see until at the earliest, next fall at this point.

Colonization is a horrible history. Calling our student athletes colonizers is horribly offensive. Please change it.

I would really appreciate considering a name change as I found it not adequate to compete in the name of colonialism.

I don't see any issue with it. If people do, they should be reminded that Colonials were people who fought against oppression, including many who were abolitionists.

"Colonials", while not necessarily named with the context it now holds, is offensive to GW students of color and puts our community in a position where we are called a name that hurts marginalized groups.

go hippos

GW Hippos would make a much more inclusive moniker! The victims of colonialism can say "Go Hippos" without the discomfort that comes with the statement "Go Colonials"

Why would you change it? There seems to be no reason. Bring students back to campus first. This is the more important issue.

Honestly, why not remove it? It's a lame mascot to begin with and in this day and age, it harkens back to "colonizers" who stole land from indigenous people already inhabiting the land. I think of colonizers as seedy, violent, and exploitative.

It will be exceedingly hard to find an appropriate mascot that keeps with the Washington theme and does not offend. As you know George Washington was a very flawed man who owned slaves and did not believe black people were deserving of equal rights. Perhaps the university should be focusing on changing the entire name of the school rather than just the colonial moniker and a few buildings. The administration needs to reckon with the fact that George Washington would have been appalled to see the diversity of GWU present day. While I know the history of GWU, I still believe that either the university needs to do a better job explaining his complicated legacy and accepting his downfalls or completely remove his name from the University and instead name it after one of the few presidents who were not racist or aided in the marginalization of African Americans. My recommendation for a new name would either be Maya Angelou University or Barack Obama University. I hope you all make the right decision especially considering some of the most distinguished alumnus from this school are and will be of African decent.

It seems the committee keeps going in circles gauging people's thoughts on this rather than revealing a plan of action when several petitions have already been collected on this issue.

I do not have a strong feeling about this, but I think the term Colonial is a bit awkward in the moment and GWU could likely find a much better moniker.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Hippos are cooler

I think the new name should still be related to George Washington or the city of Washington, DC should it be changed.

A colonial doesn't make sense to me as a mascot since the mascot just looks like a cartoon version of George Washington. Maybe I'm just used to mascots being animals.

I think, as many students do, the 'Hippos' is a better and more positive mascot for the university.

Frankly, this decision shouldn't be as drawn out as it is. Clearly there is discomfort over the use of a name that implies harmful parts of history should be celebrated. Listen to the students and faculty first and foremost.

I realize it is a divisive topic and I understand the want to change it, but I don't think Hippos is the solution. However, the proper name of the statue, I believe, is GW's River Horse, a reference to the old myth the Washington saw hippos in the Potomac. It keeps the mythos of the school a little bit and it's a better name than Hippo.

The name "colonials" has resulted in issues for study abroad students where people feel uncomfortable wearing apparel.

just bc we're a school based in DC and named after a founding father doesn't mean that we should encourage unquestioning patriotism, which is absolutely the vibe of asking students to root for a team named the "colonials" Like I have no pride in this country's colonial foundation and neither should anyone else, and I won't root for any team named for that history

Please remove ASAP. There is no justification for keeping such a moniker in 2020 and beyond.

GW has no sense of school spirit so this is a giant waste of money and time, as usual.

If the moniker upsets so many people, why keep it? It's just our sports moniker, it's not that big of a deal to change. You'll probably get some silly flack from Alumni who played on the basketball team during the 70's and the WSJ op ed page, but in two years (max), no one will care nor remember that the moniker was changed. Please fix this. As a student, it is painfully cringeworthy to watch the University struggle to make this simple change.

The moniker name would have affected my decision to apply, however I was unaware of it at the time. As I am set to graduate soon, this issue will affect how I intend to support the school in the future.

Thank you for taking this issue seriously!

To me, there really doesn't seem to be any reason for keeping it. So many people find it offensive, outdated, and alienating. I am new at GW this semester but I have yet to meet a student or faculty member who is in favor of keeping the Colonials moniker.

Thank you for your work in helping change the Colonials moniker. To me, as a person of color, it does not seem right to boast that my university's mascot is "colonials," due to its association to colonialism.

it's such a lame moniker.

I think the Colonial speaks to a legacy of American genocide and the worst of our early history. Using an animal mascot, like the hippo, would remove most associations to our tragic history.

You all are such idiots for having such a strong process, how about you simply change the racist name to the hippos or cherry trees or anything else instead.



Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Removing the Colonials moniker is the very least GW can do to address the painful history in which this school has profited off of. Indigenous people and especially indigenous students at GW should never refer to students at GW as Colonials. This name change is way past due. This university cannot continue to teach subjects like history, women's gender and sexuality studies, and American studies under the name Colonials. What a disgrace

I think GW is an extremely liberal cluster of peoples. This being said, the term "colonial" is incorrectly synonymous with colonization. I could not care less about changing the school's mascot. I am confident the negative interpretation of "colonial" to be misguided but, understand why many dislike it. Colonization has become akin to genocide and that is where the disgust for our school's mascot stems. Perhaps a name change, such as "Washingtonians" after the school's name, is appropriate. With such, the mascot could remain. Even then, one can expect outrage from members of the GW sphere because George Washington's wife owned slaves. No matter what, there will always be people complaining. Ultimately, donors and the board should make the decision and not a youthful student body. We are not managers of this institution nor custodians; only participants. On a side note, no one will rally behind any mascot because a sense of community is nonexistent. There are far more important matters to address than this and I find it appalling our resources are being dedicated to such a superficial matter. I urge you to add another question to this survey asking if the individual has attended 0 or 1- 5 or 5+ athletic events where the school's mascot is relevant.

I think the moniker is misinterpreted. The Colonial Army was not a colonizing force, and rather fought against British colonists.

Personally, I'd just as soon keep it, but because it obviously causes pain and discomfort to other members of the community, I am quite open to changing it. I hope a moniker can be identified that reflects some admirable aspect of our heritage and perhaps the nobler aspects of George Washington's aspirations for the University and ... isn't "cheesy" and an easy-out.

This whole matter is simply absurd. To be offended by the Colonials moniker is to be offended by the founding of this country.

It is a stain on the University to keep this moniker. Period.

I see how colonization is bad, and the colonials can represent other colonies that lived worse than American. Since we are international this could seem off putting to students where colony life isn't that far in the past and it is offensive. I understand for us it's our founding but for many colonization was brutal

I would've preferred to go to a different university with a different association, but the program I needed was here. I have very mixed feelings of shame with getting a diploma from this institution. While it has a long-standing record of academic excellence, the racist and white-centric overtones of "Colonials" are extremely off-putting. I am a white middle aged woman and I would guess that my mixed feelings would be amplified in other groups looking at colleges to attend. I have not and would never purchase or wear college swag with "Colonials" emblazoned on it.

Creates an unwelcome feeling for immigrant students

By placing emphasis on the usage of the term it is discriminatory and damaging to people's of non white backgrounds by erasing their experiences by placing an emphasis on a white background.

I think an excellent replacement would be the "Revolutionaries". It may be a little long, but it works perfectly. It would allow us to keep George Washington as our mascot, and it actually fits George much better than colonial. "Colonial" does not apply to the figure of George Washington and the founding of our government nearly as much as "revolutionaries". "Colonials" does not create a vision of the proud Americans who revolted against the British and founded our country, but the explorers and colonists who came before them, with no affiliation to or dreams for America, and slaughtered countless natives and destroyed their lands. "Revolutionaries" simultaneously captures the revolutionary war/founding of America/George Washington history that the university should be proud of, while also placing a mark on the future. We are not just revolutionaries in our past, but GW and it's students will continue to be revolutionaries in every field they touch. The favorable double meaning of the term, the fact that it captures what "colonials" was trying to without being racist, and the fact that it actually reflects George Washington and our history much better than "colonial", makes "the revolutionaries" definitely worth considering.

N/A.

I never found the colonial name ever compelling regardless of any controversy. I think it makes sense to pick a new unproblematic name that also is catchy

its racist. we want the hippo!!!!

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

The students want this. Remember, they are your customers. Just do it. If it is the only honorable thing GW does this year.

Please stop our university from becoming a national laughing stock - keep the name

Hippo!

I would not mind a change IF there is a good alternative that fits with the name "George Washington." For example, I would much rather it remain Colonials than adopt the moniker "riverhorses" or "hippos." Those do not fit with the school name at all and sound terrible. On the other hand, if the school adopted "Revolutionaries" in place of Colonials, I could get behind that. George Washington Revolutionaries sounds good to me, and it shouldn't offend anyone.

Making fast decisions on things like mascots, statues, or names might be a nice gesture to a small percentage of people who feel affected by it and appear like you're making change isn't really effective. The root of the problem is bigger than this and changing a moniker isn't real change it doesn't impact what folks are really complaining about, it might be just for optics but the same affected people are suffering from systematic oppression. I favor keeping the moniker and don't view it negatively this is coming from a minority. Otherwise change everything else in the country.

I understand concern about the Colonials moniker, however I feel that it is not meant as an endorsement of colonialism, rather as a representation of colonies fighting back for their freedom from their home country. That said, I do understand concerns about the Moniker, and I feel a better alternative, which to me still represents the positive aspects of the moniker, is the Revolutionaries. I think that avoids the issues of colonialism while still representing the positive aspects of history that I believe the moniker originally was intended to represent.

Please do not change the Colonials Moniker as it is an accurate reflection of George Washington, for who our school is named. It was George Washington who led the colonies to become the U.S and it should be remembered in our moniker.

I genuinely do not care what the name is as long as we are not the Hippos

The Hippos moniker would be 1,000x preferred than the current moniker.

Seems like there are a lot of bigger issues facing the country and this University. I cannot believe people are wasting their time on this. Priorities are out of whack here.

By removing the colonial moniker I believe we can create a more inclusive name that students can rally behind

I feel it would be an easy switch to make the hippo an official mascot and perhaps demoting "colonials" an unofficial mascot.

Please remove it.

hippooooos

The Colonials moniker has racist and genocidal connotations to Native American people and their descendants. An university can't claim universality of knowledge and experiences when it highlights oppressors and disregard the negative impact of this moniker on the community as a whole. It is kind of insulting that you are even considering whether this is up for debate or review. In a time where white supremacy is heightened by the president of the United States I don't see a more appropriate time for replacing this moniker for a more inclusive one, one that can make all people proud to belong here, not just white Europeans descendants.

I would favor swapping the Colonials moniker for another moniker that is still historically relevant to George Washington but does not have the same negative associations. I personally suggest a new moniker such as the Continentals or the Dragoons (as a nod to the equestrian statue of George Washington in Washington Circle).

Cancel culture will be the death of this great nation. Stop. Get help. If everything offends you, you will lead a sad and lonely life. America is a great country because of it were not, immigrants wouldn't still be trying to illegally come here.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I am a minority person and find no reasonable instance where someone would find this an insensitive or 'racist' moniker. It reflects an important and proud period of history of the United States.

I really do not care, it has a historical meaning. If you change the Colonials moniker, you might as well change the name of the University because George Washington was a slave owner during the time that it was viewed as socially acceptable.

I don't believe that there is a compelling reason to change the moniker. However, if it were to be changed I propose that the moniker be changed to the Generals, in reference to George Washington's leadership during the American Revolution.

replace the Colonials with the hippo

Hippo.

Hippos would be a great new moniker and mascot for GW!

I can't be proud to be a "Colonial." School spirit just won't exist in the way that it could for future classes until we get rid of this moniker.

In my opinion, while the consequences and actions of colonists (while dark and horrible) were actions of the past. I believe it is unfair to judge history with the standards of today because our standards of today will then be judged by the standards of tomorrow. That being said I am okay with the moniker being changed if it seriously offends a fair sized group of students, but the new moniker needs to be equally as good if not better.

I would much prefer to be a Hippo than a Colonial

It's not necessary to remove such a historic moniker in American history. Regardless of the majority of opinions reflected in this survey, the "Colonials" moniker is a symbol of great academic success, and succinctly reminds Alumni of the prestige of the institution. Removal of the moniker will erase the most simple symbol in George Washington's history. If removal of the moniker is necessary, so is the change of George Washington's official name. I plead that the University respect tradition while actively living out the modern values it seeks to.

Feel like there could be a cooler sounding mascot. I dont really have anything against Colonials.

I think the colonials moniker is very offensive and should be changed.

We already have an unofficial second mascot, the hippo, that it would be easy to switch to. I see much more school spirit surrounding the Hippo than I do surrounding the "colonial"

The brand has value, don't dilute it; this is a silly thing to be debating.

can we please just be the hippos. i already have the body for it.

Overwhelmingly in the world today, there are few symbols that possess little to no flaws. Even the great leaders throughout history that we admire today had flaws, but we should choose to celebrate the sound principles and virtues these imperfect people fought for. People will always be imperfect, but the ideologies that the colonials fought for including freedom for all, the right to self-determination, and equality under the law, are not.

The fact that the school mascot is still called the Colonials in 2020 is unacceptable. I appreciate GW's role in conducting sustainable and justice-oriented research across the institution, but the fact that we are still called Colonials holds us back. Until this is changed, I don't see GW being taken seriously in the growing fields of equity and justice focused work.

There are bigger issues in the world. If this bullshit is what GWU wants to focus on and is worried about, I'll take my \$65,000 a year somewhere else.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I love the Colonial name...its a great callback to the history of the country and also to its namesake. I think there are literally thousands of things the university could focus on instead of this non-issue.

Just change the name/mascot to the River Horse/Hippos or something related to the Continental Army or DC in general. Anything related the colonialism is fraught with controversy.

We have plenty of native and more inclusive potential mascots! Check out the DC native belted kingfisher, pileated woodpeckers, and flying squirrels. Great options going forward.

Please keep up. Ivy Leagues have already started removing names that are indicative of white supremacy and colonization. It should not be taking this long. And if it is a money issue, guess what, we won't be having sports like that because it is a pandemic and you guys cancelled sports teams. This is the perfect time for rebranding.

It's literally such a waste of time that this is even being questioned

I am in favor of replacing colonials with the hippo!

If we were "the colonizers" maybe I would be upset. But the word "colonial" is just what people who lived in the colonies were called. Indians and Africans were "colonials" too, it's not racial or classist. I don't understand why people are upset about this.

Why is this a concern at a major educational institution? One needs to almost affirmatively want to be oppressed in order to feel that the term "Colonial" affects them in any material way. Grow up.

We barely have school spirit, we're not a "rah rah" school nobody has ties to colonials do the hippos

I think there are plenty of options that would convey a similar meaning without using a term with such negative connotations. Something like "founders" could be a compromise. However, I'd prefer a moniker that isn't so centered around white men.

Colonialism is a racist philosophy rooted in a false belief of western cultural exceptionalism. Rather than find pride with the cultural sins of many of America's European ancestors, we should move away from the use of the term "Colonial" in relation to whatever mascot the school may have. Even though the intention of the mascot/moniker may not ever have been one born out of a racist thoughts or actions, its continued use is indicative of the greater cultural acceptance of oppressive ideology in our political landscape today.

I am in favor of changing the moniker to something all students can get behind. An inoffensive moniker is inconsequential to students' experiences at GW, but an offensive one makes hostile some students' experiences at the school. Instead of having a student body that feels both positively and negatively about the moniker, let's create the opportunity for a student body that feels both positively and neutrally about it. It is not appropriate to glorify the colonial era when students and their families are still feeling its effects (poverty, high mortality rates, racism). The "offense" students feel about the Colonials moniker is more than hurt feelings. I am an international student. When I told my friend at home in first year that we are the Colonials, she said, "That's so bad, oh my god," referring to how we display the name so unabashedly. The tide is turning against team names that evoke ill treatment of Black and Indigenous people. Will all this effort be for nothing, only to reopen the inquiry 5-10 years down the line?

Pioneers

This matter is too much of a political correctness issue. I am in favor of keeping the moniker because it a. it doesn't affect the world-class education provided by GWU in any negative way, and b. it's a part of the University's history and branding. GWU's time is better spent dealing with more important issues than fickle public opinion.

Change it to something else - just not hippos. As an athlete, I definitely do not want to be the hippos.

The colonial moniker must be changed. This is a horrible symbol for a university and it is so disrespectful. It is highlighting white men who colonized indigenous peoples and committed mass genocide.

I understand that the intent was likely innocent, and it would be great to come up with a moniker with similar excitement (revolutionaries, etc.) that is more inclusive.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

It is not really a name I can rally behind, like "Go Dukes!" or "Go Huskies!" where it is just a fun thing to call out and everyone can feel proud shouting. In our PC times, I think it would be responsible for GW to change the moniker to a name more inclusive of all views and less politically charged.

Change the colonials moniker to the Hippos or the River Horses.

I am a white student of predominately British/Irish heritage. I don't think that my voice should drive any portion of the decision here. GW should work to make marginalized students feel comfortable, regardless of the feelings of the students that already feel comfortable and welcome in American society.

While I understand the responses to the Colonials moniker, I would be fine with it remaining in place given its historical relevance. If, however, the university chooses to replace the moniker, I would suggest something equally related to American history but less racially charged. The Presidentials, Generals, or Eagles would be monikers that retain the historical spirit of the original moniker while reducing the racial issues associated with it. If the university chooses to use Eagles, however, I would check with local Native American tribes to make sure they do not object to an eagle being used as it is often held as the representation of a sacred spirit.

It seems unbelievable to me that alumni/athlete nostalgia for a mascot would outweigh the legacies and often unacknowledged histories of harm this mascot implies for current students and prospective students.

The name Colonial is crucial in making my time at GW the best that it can possibly be. I do not want the name changed

As a black woman, I may be a GW student, but I am certainly not a Colonial. I'm not quite sure what the purpose of a "special committee" is, because GW will either recognize the valid criticisms by students affected by colonialism, or continue to promote white supremacy by trivializing the violence of colonialism.

It seems to me that if a large population of students feel uncomfortable with their school's moniker it shouldn't be the moniker. George can still be a mascot/logo for the school even if we aren't "the colonials".

Please keep the name

I think we have other options such as the hippo aka "river horses" which not only sounds cooler but is a name that doesn't have roots in colonization and doesn't exclude students. Sports and school spirit is very lacking at GW and part of it is 45% because the student body doesn't wanna stand behind the name "the colonials". I would 100% not only purchase more school spirit gear or go to games if we had a river horse or cute hippo as our logo. But as a person of color to wear "we are the colonials" feels like I am having to choose between school spirit and ignoring the history of Colonization that happened in my home country. We have other mascots that would be better. It's not like we're trying to make a new one. We have an unofficial mascot might as well make it official.

The Colonial mascot is actively exclusionary and reduces student participation in the GW community. I do not want to be associated with the moniker and will feel more comfortable wearing university merch and representing my school when the name is changed.

Do we really want to be known as "people who colonize" on a university built on tribal land? Honestly embarrassing.

Honestly if y'all want to honor George Washington/American revolutionary soldiers "Continental" is right there

There is no negative aspect of the term colonial. It is not offensive unless someone tries to be offended by it. GW should not give into every single complaint.

These people are crazy- please do not cave to them

Statement 3 ("I understand the meaning behind the 'Colonials' moniker.") is awkwardly phrased and may not provide realistic feedback.

While I don't feel personally affected by the moniker, I'm uncomfortable supporting it, or wearing any merch with it, because I really don't think it represents the student body, as it's clearly an old white man. I feel a much stronger connection to the hippo.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

If the moniker is to change, please provide us with a list of alternatives beforehand. Thank you for asking our feedback!

I feel like it also reprints the idea of going into uncharted territory in search of success and some times doing something out of the ordinary

The intention behind the colonials moniker does not matter — hundreds, if not thousands, of students and alumni have found it offensive and exclusive. This alone should cause concern and should push us to find a more inclusive icon, something everyone at gw can rally behind. "Colonials" brings to mind whiteness, displacement, and murder — that is not something I want to be associated with.

Colonials means "conqueror" to me and coming from a country that was colonized I think this is very disrespectful. Colonizers stole many goods and products from my home country, bought and sold slaves, and killed so many people. So to me, Colonials has a bad connotation and I definitely don't feel comfortable wearing any gears or shirts with the colonial moniker in it.

Hippos!!!

I 10000000% understand in the current political climate how this can be seen as offensive and I know the colonist history is highlighted by the exploitation of natives and systematic use of slavery. If our students of the BIPOC community believe strongly in this push then go for it. I in no way want to further the horrific history of this country and have them go through further remembrance of that brutality. But from the athletics perspective it seems like a lot of white kids trying to be a savior and that they came to GW just to be able to put this on their resume that they were a woke king/queen/gender non conforming royalty. In athletics, we know that no one else in this school cares about sports. We have to support one another in our own right so if thats with the colonial monicker then so be it but I please urge you to come up with a viable solution. If athletics has to cheer as "go GDub" or "raise high" all the time and be referred to as the "George Washington \_\_\_ team" like the Washington football team then I can promise you the school will receive no money from athletics alumni. thank you .

As a black student athlete, it does put us in an awkward situation in having to represent a moniker that has historically been harmful to other groups of people.

I dont have a problem with the colonials moniker but am not in support of who the colonists actually were. It's still American History and worry it will be a slippery slope leading to changing the school name.

Like George Washington, those who founded the US did some great things and not great things. I think it's important to celebrate what's great and to also ensure that we maintain awareness of and learn from what they did that's not great. It's not a simple matter of either Colonials or George Washington being wholly good or wholly bad. As with most things, they have elements of both and need to be handled accordingly. It's up to us to carry both in a way that demonstrates respectfulness and honor to all sides. That doesn't mean deleting either of them.

There are more important issues that directly affect people and cause real physical, mental, and emotional harm. We should focus on those. This is a forced and constructed issue.

I would like to see the hippo become our official mascot

The colonial moniker plays into the theme of the school which is George Washington who was a colonial. I think if you don't realize that the colonials refers to the revolutionary war (WHICH MADE THE UNITED STATES THE NATION WE LIVE IN TODAY AND WHO FOUGHT FOR the FREEDOMS WE HOLD DEAR) Than you are giving into a political correctness that is very dangerous and allows for us to forget our revolutionary history. The colonials fought for our freedom to choose where we want go to school, they fought for us to determine our own destinies and they fought for us to become whoever we want to be which is the same mission GWU holds dear. And to not honor that forces us to not only undermine what the underground militias did to bring about the United States but it also sends a message that our history doesn't matter anymore. it also undermines the motto of this nation which is that we are not perfect but we always strive to be, it doesn't matter where we come from but it matters where we are going and we are a great and a good country that has evolved and has grown from our mistakes just like any person. This may sound like broader concerns but the message this sends students will determine the way they think for the rest of their lives.

The Colonials moniker speaks ill of no one and simply points to the people that founded our nation. Taking issue with the moniker requires a fabrication of grievance. There is simply nothing wrong with the moniker and I would dearly like to see it stay.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

As an Indian national, I would feel excluded or hurt if my school used the British colonial as a symbol of pride. While I know about the moniker issue, I do not know if the situation is comparable to the one I just said. While I would not mind my university stating the benefits to Britain or the world from those who colonized India, it is another matter to use it as a form of showing unity and encouraging engagement. It would definitely show me that the university does not care about my people or our suffering under their rule. The role of a moniker is mostly given to animals, because they are a neutral zone. Tigers and lions have not targeted or colonized places. Other monikers should be carefully chosen to be neutral. While the moniker could show more favor to a certain group of people, it should definitely not be hostile to any of the groups whether at this university or not. Once again, this is how I feel if it were related to my situation. What the affected group feels about the moniker is of utmost importance rather than my crudely and hastily formed opinion.

Simply removing the moniker does not allow for a healthy debate about its legacy. I feel this is a reactionary move that could be a slippery slope to the elimination of all historical references that may be deemed problematic. The moniker did not bring me to GW and changing it will not cause me to dis-enroll but I do not feel it is a necessary step.

Just do it already

As I said above, I am surprised they didn't settle with Continental Army earlier. It is more distinguished and historically accurate, without problematic confounds.

Just don't make it something messed up like the hippos or the water horses or something dumb... let's make it washington dc themed

It feels like the only cohesive belief among the majority of GW students is we do not want to continue to be the Colonials

While it does not personally affect me, I am uncomfortable with the glorification of colonialism. The Colonials spread racism, supremacy, and genocide throughout America- and this still affects the Native American populations today.

The colonials moniker made me uncomfortable when applying to GW and I do not feel proud to state 'I am a Colonia', rather I feel embarrassed.

George Washington is the greatest of the founding fathers of this nation. Do not denigrate the memory of the founders. Stop with this woke nonsense.

Please change the name!

Colonial is a unique mascot that is a symbol of American spirit, freedom, and determination.

It would be hypocritical of the University to remove the Colonials moniker and maintain the name of the University after George Washington. Changing one would require the change of the other as they have many similarities in what they symbolize and represent.

The hippo is a great alternative!

As a Senior, I have not seen or have myself a significant, emotional attachment to the GW identity of "colonials." Quite frankly, GW lacks school spirit in general. Students are more passionate about the city of D.C. and their academics/professional experience rather than being a GW "colonial." Maybe that is a bigger problem for another day, but in regards to the moniker of "colonials" I do not feel that there is a strong tie to the word/identity among students. At this point I think it is doing more harm than good.

I don't really care about the colonials moniker but just don't change it to something lame like the hippos.

Although I'm neither for or against removing the Colonials moniker, I have to also admit I haven't been following the "two sides" (actually, the many sides) of the debate. If there is a considerable student population today who feel excluded with that moniker, then I think we should be having the conversation and would defer to an identity that the majority of the current population can back without feeling like it is not being inclusive of our current values and our current students.

Have we considered changing the moniker to "Continentials" or even "Districtionians"? These monikers might be more inclusive. I am in favor of a change, but we should keep the fighting spirit of George Washington. Thanks for your consideration!

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I can understand that this decision wasn't made with the intent of being disrespectful years ago, but I think it is essential to acknowledge now that this is no longer an inclusive term. The name sets back the progress we are trying to make as a country, and the least we can do is change it.

In addition to my above commentary on what the "Colonials" title means, part of my enthusiasm to attend GW was in the hopes that the name would be changed during my attendance; seeing the matter gain traction made me feel better about my decision to attend. I refused to purchase any GW merchandise with anything "Colonial" printed. I mean, come on. How out of touch would it be for I, a descendant of colonizers who due to my family history I know to have committed atrocities against indigenous groups, to proudly wear a "Colonials" shirt or hat? "Colonials" is way too loaded with some terrible history and unresolved conflict to be used uncritically as a moniker.

A very very small minority of the student body wants the moniker changed. The only people offended by this are people who would find issue with any name.

I just think Colonials is a bad mascot for a school anyway and GW merch could use rebrand with less buff and a cooler name to put on clothes because George Washington is too long and colonials is pretty lame.

The National Museum of African American History and Culture uses the name "colonial" in the same context as GW uses it-- inclusive of every person who fought with George Washington against the British. I feel uncomfortable that a predominantly white institution would insist it knows better than the National Museum of African American History and Culture about what a term means to PoC.

I am against changing the moniker. I am confused as to why people want to change it - it is a lack of understanding of the idea of a colonial. This is reminiscent of people calling the Betsy Ross flag racist - again, a lack of understanding of the flag and what it stood for. Honestly, this is a waste of time.

colors are cute but u can do better than "colonials" tbh

I do not support changing names, removing statues, or other actions associated with erasing the historical context of the nation. It is important for us to know where we came from to recognize how we can do a better job in the future.

Hippos is a way cooler name anyways, we should have gone with that the moment we got that statue. And also it won't make anyone feel unincluded or uncomfortable it's really not that hard k thanks

I do not feel included by the use of the moniker "Colonials". I think that this is offensive to people of color and should not be used. I do not rally with the term "Colonials". I do not feel comfortable using the term "Colonials", nor do I feel comfortable wearing the term "Colonials". I think a new term should be used which is more inclusive to a diverse student and faculty body.

If you remove the Colonials moniker. I recommend the new mascot be a hippo.

If there are students, and potential students, who feel not only excluded but outwardly antagonized by this title, how strong can the dissenting opinion be to not move forward with the removal? This is a very politicized topic, and I'm sure you'll find the dissenting opinions fall upon racial lines.

This year, students have deeply lost trust of the GW administration. There are countless inept actions this administration has done this year: the last minute announcement of the Fall semester being online, the unnecessary layoffs of staff and faculty, taking away housing from at-risk students, the rush job of hiring of Heather Swain, and countless other mistakes. To not change the moniker would be another mistake. To act swiftly to change the deeply offensive moniker "Colonials" would send a message to the students that this administration actually cares about the views of students.

I think it's easy to separate the name of the university (George Washington) from its mascot. I know renaming the university would be a huge undertaking, but as I see it, the mascot has no connection to the university name. For example, what does "Drexel" have to do with dragons, or University of Minnesota with gophers? Nothing immediately obvious. I think GW can definitely continue to honor George Washington without associating with the concept of colonialism.

I think banding behind the idea of colonialism is in poor taste and signals to the minority and POC student population of the inherent disregard for history and the pain and suffering the moniker stands for. Please, consider banding behind another moniker and not one that is symbolic of exploitation and abuse of basic human rights.



Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

because im an american history buff i believe our very george Washington would much rather us be the Patriots or the Revolutionaries. colonials is derogatory to many and even held negative meaning for our own founding fathers it really doesn't take a rocket scientist to realize that

I will transfer if the moniker is changed. No more of this cancel culture.

Students at this school are known for being the George Washington Colonials, and changing that would be like changing our identity.

The Colonials moniker may have a particular meaning to American students, however, to international students it is perceived differently. The exact meaning behind it has not been made clear to international students.

I think we have dragged this debate on for a really long time, they've been talking about changing the name since before I came to GW and this is my third year. I really truly honestly do not care at all what our mascot is, but a) if other students or communities are offended by it while I don't care then it should absolutely be changed, and b) it definitely seems like the mood of the GW community has been that we will eventually end up changing it, so we really should just get around to doing it already so we can move on. Let's just be hippos already or whatever it is we're going to be.

While I personally feel included, 'Colonials' is a little insensitive to non-white racial groups, and changing the name to be less racially charged would be for the best.

Many of the athletes say "Go dubs" because of G-Dub, i think that's an important consideration if people try to argue athletics use it

I'm a senior and feel like any change/no change will not affect me. So I don't feel too strongly about this

I understand how the moniker was originally intended, however that is not the context that currently exists. For this reason, it is imperative that GW remove the Colonial moniker to be more inclusive of all students and individuals who decide to attend our university.

Please rid our school of this colonial disgusting legacy. It only shows how our school still remains unaware of its position as an enforcer of the status quo that colonization is something to be celebrated and cheered after. No, it is not.

As a graduate student, I haven't let monikers stop me from attending the right fit program. I will not buy things that say "Colonials" on them, and I don't like the Colonial mascot. It does feel racist and willfully ignorant, to me.

The Washington Redskins did not try to use cultural appropriation, as they saw strength in the name and wanted to use it to positively show the power of the team. The same goes with the Colonials. People today want to see the negative in every situation, like if George Washington owned slaves, instead of seeing how much he did for our country. In no way do I find the name Colonials offensive, and I would be disappointed if GW bent the knee to radicals who want to dismantle our American history.

I think the moniker can be construed as offensive and it specifically is coupled with white colonizers and conquistadors that violently conquered the Americas and its indigenous peoples, however it is also directly tied to the idea of the first "American settlers" and the patriotic go-getter attitude. I think it should be changed, if a suitable alternative is selected, and the cost is not prohibitive, but I don't think the moniker is necessarily racist or offensive in its current use (such as other college monikers, like "The Redskins" definitely are)

I don't understand why we can't be the hippos?

I think if you were to change it it must be gradual. To me it seems silly to spend millions to rebrand when it should be going towards other things. Additionally, something like rebranding to the "Buff and Blue" would be favorable, rather than the hippos.

Hippos could be a possible replacement that I believe the student body would be satisfied with.

I think it's a good thing that the Board approved this survey and reflects a wider concern over confronting historical legacies in the academy

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I understand how the "Colonials" moniker is perceived as offensive, especially by people of American Indian heritage. I'm also wary of erasing our history, and I would support changing the moniker to something that still reflects American history and identity in a positive way, e.g. "Revolutionaries."

We are a school filled with pride about our origins and the United States. However, the colonials took land from the Native Americans that wasn't theirs, committed atrocities against the local people, and so forth. I understand that not all colonials did this, but in terms of colonization and colonists, the term isn't very well thought of. GWU is supposed to be one of the most diverse schools in the country, make people feel accepted, not with outdated colonial rhetoric, but with some other moniker. I'm sure our creative student body has ideas.

A lot of merch already had the hippo in it and there is a hippo statue on campus. I don't think considering hippos would be a bad idea.

Glorifying something that includes violence is not a wise choice. Colonialism is not inclusive of minority populations, certainly. It is inherently violent towards native americans specifically.

I think replacing the colonials moniker is definitely needed, given the negative connotations around the name.

This is a ridiculous and vast overreaction to the current situation in our country and this school. Blown completely out of proportion

This will continue to be an issue until it is changed

I truly have no preference on the issue. I have not personally heard any students claim the moniker as being offensive to them. I am in an extremely diverse cohort and nobody has mentioned the offensive nature of the moniker. It is my fault that I am not as educated on the matter as I should be, but I would like to hear more from students who feel this is offensive so I can learn more about this. If a portion of the students feel threatened by the name colonials, then I will be in favor of removing it. If not, then I am in favor of keeping the moniker given the financial and legal impact as well as the tradition of this associated with the school.

The Colonials moniker transcends its predisposition definition. Its a traditional symbol of GW, and does not attribute to any social, political, or symbolic stance against, or for, any agenda, view, or group. However, this is my experience, or perception, of the moniker as a mostly white, Hispanic male. If I was Native American, my view of the moniker may be seen differently. If the moniker is changed, I'd like to see it changed to something that continues to define GW, like George Washington himself, or GW's connection to D.C. politics or D.C. in general.

I am a little confused by the "I can rally for the 'Colonials' moniker" question. Is it referring to my comfort level with the moniker or my enthusiasm for the name in general? Either way, I think the moniker "Colonials" is completely antiquated and wasn't even catchy to begin with.

There are better options than the Colonials moniker!

There is nothing wrong with the actual design. If people want re-name it, then that is fine.

My qualm with the colonials moniker is NOT that it is offensive. Rather, it is a bland and disappointing mascot to have. Because 'colonials' is an odd and impersonal mascot (at least, far less personal than the GW hippo), students are not inspired to adopt the moniker, or even take pride in it. 'Colonials' is not a desirable community to be part of, thus the moniker only creates extra distance between students and their college community. Simply put, the colonials moniker is lame and does not incite school spirit the way the administration may think it does, or the way fan-favorite alternatives (again, like the hippo) could.

To me, the colonial moniker is a fun way to keep the GWU spirit alive with the theme of our founding fathers. However, since it causes so much discomfort to others, I am completely ok with changing it.

I think that people will rally behind whatever the mascot is, and therefore if « colonials » is offensive, there is no repercussions for replacing it.

I find it troubling that you have escalated this, since I see it as a non-issue.

Emails such as that sent earlier should include links to articles about the history of the development of the moniker, and a summary of the opinions for both sides. A bit silly to ask about awareness without giving people the opportunity to become aware.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I would be interested in learning more about what the objections are to the "colonial" name.

I provided feedback to GW staff on a few occasions about the Colonial moniker and our mascot. When I was first welcomed to GW by phone, the woman said, "Congratulations on being a Colonial!" I told her I would rather be a hippo. (She told me during that same call about the gifted hippo statue.) She said, "Hmm, you're only the second person who has ever said they preferred to be a hippo." I asked if the other person was Black (like me) or Native American. I am proud of being a student at GW because it is a good school, but I will never buy anything that mentions the Colonials or has an image of the school mascot. Never. I have 6 different GW articles of clothing and chose them because they excluded these features. The mascot is particularly terrifying to me. I understand that schools and sports teams typically make their mascots look angry, fierce, or some other representation of strength, but George looks ready and eager to murder and possibly enslave. I also don't understand why it is honorable to memorialize a human being, especially a founding father, by morphing their image into a school mascot with a foam head. Can't we just use a hippo or bird?

The hippo is already an honorable mascot across campus. It's on a lot of merch, it's spoken about on tours, and it's already a tradition to visit the hippo for good luck and at graduation. I think the hippo would make a perfect moniker as so many students are already so excited about it!

This really isn't affecting anyone and changing a name won't solve a problem that happened over 200 years ago. The school cannot be dictated by a group of students who dislike the name. This group of students hasn't been affected by the name in the slightest. GW should turn their attention towards more pressing matters such as finding a new president, bringing back the 7 athletic teams that were cut to help fund the horrible basketball team, and to help solve the COVID-19 crisis.

I urge you to listen to and prioritize the voices of students of color and non-Western students who have been directly impacted by the legacy of what the "Colonials" represent because equity requires a historically and culturally located approach to change.

Although the term is not meant to offend anyone, it could be interpreted wrongfully. I would take the time to reconsider changing the moniker due to the term's double interpretation.

I think the moniker should be a hippo.

If it's changed, it should be the hippos! The freshman class loves our unofficial mascot

It is very "cringe" to have our mascot be an old white dude who owned slaves, I mean it is 2020 there is just no need for this. Make us the hippos or something cute! While it is true I chose GW for its academics, it would be nice to not wince every time I see our mascot.

It is GW's identity. This shouldn't be a topic that needs discussion. GW is a fine institution that does not need to be woke....Can this university please stand up to the woke culture??!!

I think that the colonial could easily be replaced by the hippo. He is unique and cute but also intimidating. Further, as a school known for having a politically outspoken student body, the hippo serves as a neutral symbol.

Please change it, it makes everyone uncomfortable. I would rather be referred to as the much less problematic "Hippos".

we should be the DC Devils

The name has been taken out of context and is not offensive if you're understand the history. Our school already lacks school spirit and removing the moniker will only reduce school spirit from current students and alumni.

Make it the River Horses

Please keep the moniker.

I find that the word "colonials" specifically is not offensive, but the meaning behind it can hurt people as they took over land that was not theirs and also were extraordinarily racist so that's never fun.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Is my tuition funding this committee?

The Colonials moniker should be changed—it denotes hierarchy, invasion, and strife.

For the love of all things good, if the "Colonials" is changed to something else, do not change it to the "Hippos." That is a tragically awful name. Consider "Generals," "Revolutionaries," or "Continentials."

As a graduate student, and being remote, I don't have an intense sense of school spirit right now so I probably don't have as strong an opinion as I normally would as an undergrad.

The term "colonials" is racist and should be abolished and changed immediately.

The Hippos is such a terrible name. I'm not strongly attached to the "Colonials," but at least choose something else related to George Washington or DC or the Founding Fathers. The Hippos is just so random and not at all relevant to GW.

we don't need a moniker. We have GW, G Dub, and George as our mascot. Just drop the colonials.

Violent and racist language has no place in the university setting, and the colonial moniker is an example of that kind of language.

I am in a position of privilege where the colonials moniker does not negatively impact me or my sense of belonging in our community. However, I do not and will not take pride in a mascot that causes harm to other members of my community. Keeping a name for the sake of tradition when GW students are actively saying that they are uncomfortable with it is, in my opinion, incredibly disrespectful to them.

In a time where change is crucial in order to truly and fully respect all lives, changing the Colonials moniker will be a symbol of the University's respect for the thousands of lives that were lost centuries ago because of the colonists, and for their descendans. Removing the Colonials moniker will represent the University's declaration that they do not support the vicious genocide that took place when the colonists arrived af America, and that it will not condone any acts of violence, threats, and discrimination against POC, religions, gender, etc.

Our university should stand with indigenous populations and be a part of the many organizations recognizing the problematic history behind our monikers and change them to be more inclusive to all and to not continue to marginalize other populations

Being from a U.S. territory (colony), I'm always embarrassed to say that that's my college's mascot name. To me it seems a bit outdated or out of touch.

What should or ought to be our relationship with the past and how we judge it today? I do NOT find the moniker to be offensive. How else would you call those who were not yet Americans not wishing to remain british subjects.

I don't tell anybody about the "colonials" moniker. I was embarrassed when I found out that was the team name for the school I am attending. I hope it is removed.

Something like "the revolutionaries" would be 1. More historically accurate since Washington never referred to himself as a colonial while he did say he was a revolutionary and 2. Would be a way for hs to save the george mascot while getting rid of the association with exploration and imperialism

Colonial does not equate to colonists. I'm proud to be an American, and the 13 Colonies are integral to our beginnings.

I didn't realize this was our mascot until orientation and was shocked — mouth agape. Mind you I'm a grad student so I was not paying attention to the sports program and mascot, but come on really?!? And that was before this summer. If I had known it would have made me think twice or knock the school down my list. Definitely needs to change, happy that y'all are taking it up. Patriots, Freedom Riders, Riders (British are coming), militia men (needs history check) or Generals would be good. George Washington Generals doesn't even need a logo change.

If students are against the moniker we should instead use this opportunity for greater discussion on the issues certain students feel are perpetuated by the moniker. We should NOT censor or cancel our history as a country or the spirit and honor students, alumni, and staff feel towards the moniker.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I think that the Colonials moniker is not an inclusive logo for our university. It is dated and it is frankly very lame. Additionally, I do not believe that Colonials is that fun of a mascot. The GW George costume is kind of terrifying, he looks like a ghost. Every sporting event I have been to here I am embarrassed by our mascot. Please change it. I feel that students would be more involved if they had a mascot that is less 1776 and more representative of today's students.

When international students are facing discrimination for wearing a GW colonials t-shirt in a foreign country, there is something wrong with the mascot.

The Colonials moniker makes me extremely uncomfortable and there are so many other options to chose from. Please change it.

I am afraid this will lead to the ultimate erasure of George Washington from the university. I strongly oppose this name change as what I see as the first step in attacking George Washington next.

I think Colonials is a fine mascot, but I prefer the hippo!

If the university is tied to the existing mascot imagery, a switch to Revolutionaries would be fine. But the students love and rally behind the Hippo/Riverhorse. I would wear hippo merchandise with much more pride than colonials merch.

This is glorifying Imperialism

I feel like this moniker disrespects GW students of color and indigenous GW students. I understand that we are George Washington university and that the moniker is supposed to reflect his military rank, but it's unnecessary.

It isn't an exciting moniker. It's not easy to rally behind and celebrates a movement in history that I don't think should be celebrated.

Big fan of hippos :)

I think that not only is the colonial moniker incredible outdated, but we could definitely adopt a new moniker that would be more fun and exciting and would promote more school spirit.

Removing this moniker is the first step to making GW a truly inclusive environment for all students. Colonial history is nothing to be proud of and it is not something the university should be celebrating.

I think the idea that we should change the names of everything because it is "offensive" is a bad idea. We cannot judge the people of the past using the morals of today. Changing the names is also very reminiscent of George Orwell's "1984" and is a very slippery slope.

I am in favor of removing the moniker, not because of its relation to colonialism or imperialism. I understand what colonials are on the context of George Washington and US history. I think the name should be changed because it frankly has nothing to do with the actions of George Washington. The term colonial just describes the time period. Why aren't we called the George Washington Patriots or minutemen. Something that relates to George Washington and the revolutionary war would be better. Also, students like being called the continental army and there is nothing politically incorrect about it. I think no matter what some people will be upset because the moniker will refer to a time period where slavery existed, but the bottom line is that you can't change that. It exists to remind us of the good and bad aspects of the time period. Frankly the George Washington moniker and logo should solely reflect the revolutionary war and founding of this country. Colonials should be removed as the moniker because it doesn't anything special about George Washington or instill a sense of pride. The GW patriots would be appropriate and acceptable given that it is used by a national sports team

There are other monikers that could evoke the same time period but better represent GW. The George Washington Generals, the George Washington Continentals, or the George Washington Revolutionaries are a few examples.

This is a prime example of PC/cancel culture gone amok where uninformed undergrads take a term out of context and claim to be offended to the word's use as a moniker. This is completely ridiculous. I pledge right now that I will never give a dime in alumni support if GW changes the moniker.

I don't see much of an issue here. The name Colonials isn't really 'catchy' linguistically speaking, but it reminds me of how what the US was prior to states, colonies, which I like! Important part of history to remember that the USA has the small roots of the 13 colonies.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

It makes people uncomfortable and directly relates to a time in history that we maybe should be a little more critical of given the number of people who were incredibly hurt by Americans in the name of "freedom." How can you expect ALL students to feel comfortable with a mascot representing a group of people who actively wanted them (Black people, Indigenous people, etc.) to not be a part of this freedom and were instead treated with cruelty?

I think it would be more inclusive for a diverse student body if it were changed.

When I think of the colonials I think of a time period of discovery, adventure, fearlessness and also rebellion against tyranny.

I think we can find a mascot that is just as good and relevant to our school spirit without ostracizing people in our population who are negatively impacted by the legacy of colonialism.

The removal of the moniker would be the right thing even if GWU had enjoyed an endless run of good press. That being said, GWU has not enjoyed said good publicity, and that unquestionably is having an impact on students' futures. GWU needs to not only focus on making campus a more genuinely safe and equitable environment, but also on making clear to the rest of the world that there is a commitment to correcting mistakes of the past year or so. It is disgusting to be the George Washington Colonials. It's ridiculous that we even have to discuss this. Please do the right thing and do so with speed.

Removing items with ties to our history does not erase what happened it only masks the effects, however it does erase the forward progress our nation has made in terms of equality. We need to be proud of where we came from and how far we have come as a nation!

Disregarding the potential insensitivity, the name and mascot just sucks.

Changing names doesn't change history, accepting the full history and teaching it well does more to acknowledge the way in which indigenous people were treated to make this country. This reality shouldn't take a way from the difference those individuals made in making this country the most free country in the world- no where else can you say and do what you want without government retribution. This can be held alongside what happened to Native Americans and that we didn't always hold the standards we purported to have.

I think the fact that people have to hide the name of our teams when they go abroad should be a good hint that changing is the way to go

We shouldn't glorify a population of people who stole and destroyed the land of native people.

Go Hippos

It should be the GW Hippos! or GW Water Horses! We already have the Hippo as a big icon associated with GW campus. Would be much more fun and inclusive. Nobody hates hippos.

THIS LITERALLY SHOULDNT BE UP FOR DEBATE

Just please get rid of it. You can call us the "hippos" for all I care. If you truly want to live up to your stated commitment to uplifting BIPOC students this is a really simple way to do that.

I never tell anyone what our mascot is outside of GW because it's so embarrassing. It's so strange especially considering as an IA major we talk so much about the negative connotations around colonialism. I just don't like it at all. I was once gifted a Gw shirt but it said "colonials" on it so I refused to wear it.

The fact that we have to debate whether or not a term associated with colonialism, a concept that requires the oppression of people of color to be feasible, should be a university moniker is offensive within itself. The term is not an inclusive term - most, if not all, people of color can attest to that. If school pride is bigger than that, then that says a lot about the university's values and the administration's values. If you want to be able to claim that your university is diverse and inclusive, changing the term "colonials" should not be this big of an issue that requires committees and years of complaints.

I just don't understand what it would be changed to. The Hippos? That would be ridiculous. Maybe the Presidents, Generals, or something along those lines would be a good replacement.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

It is a historically accurate mascot that is unique to GW. It is a fitting homage to the namesake of our institution, and should be retained.

I'm not "unsure" about feeling included by the moniker, I am just indifferent. I don't need to feel "included." Frankly, there are so many more important matters that this university needs to be dealing with (like financial aid and COVID, the horrors of virtual learning, faculty layoffs and hiring freezes, crazy high executive salaries, politically jaded professors limiting free speech on campus, etc.). The least of my concerns about this institution is the mascot.

the more I think about it, the more racist it seems

I feel the renaming of the moniker is being taken out of context. While some understand it to be a representation of colonialism at large, I believe it to be a specific localized part of history. The United States was founded by 13 original colonies, and the moniker seeks to remember those colonies first united under George Washington.

Unfortunately because the school is situated in a very liberal city and college students are notoriously radical and liberal, especially those from NY and CA, I don't think you will be able to keep the "colonials" term because the liberal elite has decided that it's not politically correct.

Without knowing the history of the moniker, whether one approves of Washington or not, it does seem odd to associate a separatist during the revolutionary war with colony. Although, there is a separate concept of cultural colonization but I do not see that as a necessarily positive part of Washington's history.

this is dumb. why is this even a question

I just think it's weak

The Colonials mascot is associated with GWU due to the colleges namesake and part of American History. We are here and able to express our opinions no matter what they are because of the colonists and what the colonies represented at the time, yes it was not perfect and there were things that have changed over time for the better because we as Americans realized they were wrong. Stop the PC nonsense already and focus on something that truly matters and needs changing. You can blame "those white men" all you want but don't forget the reason you're able to have survey like this is because of them.

Please consider this change as a first step in addressing the societal ills of the past, GW complicity in this, and making campus an accepting and free place for students and staff. This isn't destroying history, rather just the fact that the colonials moniker and much of the other iconography of slave-owners that GW promotes need to be relegated to a showroom in Gelman. Many schools are now addressing these issues on their own campus and GW shouldn't have to compare itself to the market basket To do the right thing. Build real community on campus, don't try and unite us over rotten stories and people that fit into The comfortable and profitable mythology of American exceptionalism.

I think there are more pressing matters. Live and culture at GW has been affected by the pandemic. Other names of buildings can be changed to reflect a more inviting atmosphere. I generally have no preference. Im just tired of all these emails and posts when I feel that the administration is not helping students during this horrible academic year. If you're going to change it make it quick. "The Cherry Trees" we can have our opponent's face on fake cherry tree at halftime and tear it down. We can have people dress as cherries for a jackpot. And we can have a cherry pie night.

Please do not denigrate our school spirit.

I don't think we should celebrate colonization. It implies subjugating the preexisting inhabitants of the colony, which I think we can all agree is wrong.

On top of the serious inclusivity issue, colonials is also a lame mascot. There's also an alternative right there that has history with the student body, so it's not like the school would have to try to rally and create culture around something new. Plus hippos are cute and vicious, aka the perfect mascot.

"GW River Horses" seems like a suitable alternative.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I graduated with my BA last winter and am currently finishing my MA, making me a soon-to-be two-time alumna of GW. I have been a member of Colonial Brass, our university's pep band, since my sophomore year and have always felt that the moniker itself was a negligible aspect of my experience while still upholding and glorifying our nation's history of oppressing native peoples. I identify with my fellow GW students and how they seek to make the world a better place - not with an arbitrary George Washington-themed noun. I love GW, but why is a history of violence and oppression the image that we project and honor?

i think the GW river horses sounds like a cool name, y'all are so lame for trying to get rid of the hippo. Try to actually listen to the people that pay to be at this school.

I think that the Hippo is much more representative of what the students want. The hippo statue is iconic on campus and everyone loves him! Also hippos are scary animals and fun to rally behind in sports! The hippo is also already on some merchandise and looks very cute, way better looking than the colonial. GO HIPPOS!!

I find it dumb that our school named after George Washington uses an insult against him and his compatriots as it's moniker. GW and his army were the Continental Army- the colonial army would've been the British force putting down the revolution. Perhaps we should be the continentals or the revolution or something

Colonial is a term that is tone-deaf to what that truly means to anyone who is not from Europe.

I wouldn't focus on the name, your sports suck

As someone who studied abroad through GW, the Colonials moniker was not only embarrassing to discuss with anybody who asked but actively harmful to the perception of GW and to me as a GW student.

I am in favor of removing the colonials moniker. While it has history at GW, I think it is time for needed change.

We should absolutely remove this mascot and moniker. There is no need for us to continue to elevate the term colonials.

Ridiculous waste of time and money to change. Please stop the cancel culture, don't add to it!

Please remove the name! It's absolutely not necessary. There are many appropriate terms that can show strength and being fierce. Colonials is definitely not one! It has such a negative connotation to it which is troubling!

Please get rid of this offensive moniker. The fact that GW has kept this mascot despite student pushback for years is indicative of the administration ignoring the needs of students. I'm honestly disgusted by how casually our school has used this mascot despite the pain and suffering colonialism has caused around the world. This moniker is not valient or something that inspires pride. It is one of many sources of shame that comes with being a student at GW this year.

If it is decided that the moniker is to be replaced, I would prefer to have a replacement that is similar to "Colonials," such as "Continentials" that still preserves the association with President George Washington and does not invoke a problematic connotation.

The colonial moniker makes me ashamed to be a student at this university. It makes me not want to purchase any GW gear and makes me extremely uncomfortable in general.

As an immigrant from a country that was under Dutch colony, the word "colonial" did not even trigger anything until this issue is brought up. When do we stop changing names? Till all names are saints?

The further distance you can put between the University and our genocidal history against the native people here, including looking for restorative justice, the better.

George Washington University should be PROUD to bear the "Colonials" moniker.



Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

It's an extremely boring mascot that created no school spirit. Hail George Washington is our fight song, that's super weird to say out loud. It needs to go, hippo is much more interesting.

I think that listening to the people who have strong opinions on this is important. It wasn't something that ever occurred to me until I started to hear about the concern but I do understand the perspective of those who are against the moniker. I have no strong preference but I am also not in a group that would be affected by the use of the moniker and I believe that those who would be should have a stronger voice in this matter.

Having a mascot or moniker that makes everyone feel inclusive is important to individuals feeling safe and secure, comfortable to associate themselves with, and help them get into school spirit

This will directly affect my decisions to donate financially. This is dumb and reactionary. If you did a better job of teaching REAL American history we wouldn't be discussing this.

I understand, as a student and adult, that colonization was wrong. I also know, though, that the history of the United States of America, is colonial. We were a colony until we overthrew the yolk of oppression, an essential part of our American heritage. I don't mind the moniker "colonials" because it provides context.

If there are folks who feel strongly excluded by the moniker in a reasonable manner, I am on board with removing it. It appears the reasons are completely legitimate.

Removing the Colonials moniker will erase decades of GW culture and spirit, which is unfair to alumni and others who paved the way for current students and faculty. We must preserve and respect GW'S spirit and traditions.

Being an international student from a country which was a colony, I see no harm in the colonials moniker, it does not discriminate in any way and removing it would mean removing a part of gw'S history from the US and abroad

I just want to be able to buy a school hoody that doesn't have a crappy logo.

There has to be a better name that wouldn't venerate a history that is largely disgraceful to the standards of present day. The past cannot be changed. But it doesn't have to be held to a proud standard and used as a rallying cry.

I think the colonial is cool! Make's us unique rather than a bulldog or something.

Something like "Continental," if we want to keep the C and avoid using the obvious "Hippos," would be a better choice than Colonials in my mind.

Do not change it. The rationale behind this is absolutely ludicrous. You cannot look at history through today's lense. I will be extremely disappointed in this university if they change their mascot because of this.

Diversity and inclusion matters. Representing the student population and city in which the university matters. Get rid of this term.

The Colonials moniker is laden with hidden assumptions. Of chief importance, is the assumption that using this term is orthogonal to its associations with slavery and subjugation of indigenous peoples. This assumption was always wrong, and is entirely anachronistic in the modern era. It runs contrary to our value of inclusion. It must be replaced.

Please do not put hippos. Put something fierce or something. Just not hippos

By keeping the "Colonials" moniker, GW is alienating the already small amount of students who have historically been harmed by colonialism. In order for this university to be a safe space for all, we must lose the American-notion that colonialism was "good" and recognize it as it is: an oppression and erasure against non-white people, both indigenous and not.

There will always be people that feel a strong tie to an old name, especially if it was part of their own experiences here. but that in itself is a privileged point of view. For the sake of those with less privilege, and those that are new to the university the colonial moniker needs to be changed.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

"Colonials" is deeply rooted in white supremacy, the genocide of Indigenous peoples, and the enslavement of Africans. GW values inclusivity and equality (in theory) and we should not be memorializing those who committed gross human rights abuses.

It's time for it to go. We can acknowledge and understand the largely damaging parts of our history without blindly celebrating them. I hope you all make the right decision.

Our mascot shouldn't be a settler who arrives in a place and begins the process of ethnic cleansing and Europeanization. Plus its just a lame and uninspiring name as it is. You think an athlete is gonna say "I'm proud to be a Colonial" in a post game interview? Heck no! It's basically a rallying cry for white supremacy. Let's just be the Hippos and get it over with, Maybe our teams will play better.

The fact that this university hasn't switched our mascot is disgusting. I feel ashamed when I have to tell my friends at other universities that our mascot is a colonial.

Thank you for working to change the moniker! When I first learned about GW, I thought the moniker was "Colonizers", which isn't any different from "Colonials". The history and continued psychological oppression that this moniker perpetuates should not be the moniker of a university that claims to honor the Indigenous and enslaved peoples that built it.

George Washington wasn't even an original settler, I feel like there are so many other patriotic symbols we could use. Maybe Patriots or something.

I think it should be replaced with "Revolutionaries".

Is this really the best utilization of our time and resources right now?

I am in support of becoming the Hippos or the Fighting Hippos, it is a fun and neutral term that still represents an important symbol of our university and is associated with George Washington.

I think it would be great if we could have an animal or something neutral like that for a mascot. I always feel uncomfortable by mascots or monikers that are supposed to be a specific type of person or people.

Colonialism has hurt so many people in the US and abroad. Please do the right thing

It's still amazing that we are having a debate over this matter. GW needs to do a lot more in sensitizing not just faculty but also students on inclusion and diversity

While I understand the importance and tradition of the GW colonials, the term "colonials" feels reminiscent of colonialism. The term does not recognize the atrocities colonial Americans committed to native Americans. I almost chose to attend another university because of colonial moniker. A better alternative for a school mascot would perhaps be the hippo which already serves as an unofficial mascot.

I feel that students don't really have a voice in this matter; I am fine with this, just would prefer it was made clear.

Please stand up to the mob on this one. It's obviously not being used in a racist way. It's "George Washington University," so it's pretty obvious colonials does not refer to Fanon. I would be very disappointed to see my school disavow a key part of its identity and history because some children, who are ignorant by definition, do not care to understand the nuances of history and language beyond their base emotions.

I am in favor of the George Washington Hippos.

Personally I'm not deeply offend by the colonial being our mascot, however there is a significant outcry by a large portion of our community that does not feel welcome because of it. I think, in order to create a more inclusive environment on campus, making the change is absolutely necessary.

I do not like the colonials moniker. People or a group of people are not mascots. Even historical groups of people. In addition to this, I think colonials is very much tied to colonization. I extremely dislike the school being tied to colonization in this modern day setting.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I feel like changing the moniker would change the fact that we are called GWU. GW was a colonist. Erasure of history doesn't help us learn from the mistakes of the past. Keeping it around helps us not to return to those old ideologies.

It is unacceptable in the year 2020 to have a mascot by this name. This is divisive, uninclusive, insensitive, and disgusting. Retaining such a mascot takes away from the prestige of the university.

I don't feel like it needs to be changed, being such a vague concept in and of itself

While it is understandable and respectable that the university is making efforts to reach out to the GW community to gauge their concern with this issue, it is beyond evident that this moniker is not representative of the student body and the principles we should hold at GW. If elite universities across the country have been able to swiftly change racist names and symbols, I believe that GW should too as soon as possible.

Stop wasting money that you could use to give a tuition reduction due to the COVID pandemic on dumb things like some pictures around campus. Give a 40% tuition reduction, then think about the colonials moniker.

I understand people's concerns with the name, but I personally have never met someone who changed their decision to attend GW because of our mascot. To be honest, I will be very disappointed if it is determined that we need to change this moniker. I like the moniker and I feel it greatly reflects the namesake of our university, George Washington.

People are too soft. It's the name of the idea that George Washington - our NAMESAKE - represents. If we change that name, we might as well change the name of our university.

Given the cultural moment that the US is at, it is high time that the Colonials moniker is removed in place of something that is inclusive of all GW students in all of our diversity. The Colonials moniker is alienating to many and problematically celebrates colonialism and imperialism. There are many other aspects of GW and DC that we can be proud of and should instead use to rally school spirit.

Sure, change the moniker, but the administration is wasting too much time on a symbolic matter that could be quickly fixed. Instead, focus on changing the structurally racist, colonialist, and imperialist oppressions that are ingrained in the university experience. Use the name change as a symbol of the deeper changes that are necessary.

This colonials moniker is outdated and does not represent GW's inclusive values.

please continue to decolonize our academic career experiences. we all deserve better.

None

I already choose not to use the moniker and instead refer to the unofficial mascot- the hippo!

The colonials moniker has a negative connotation. Considering the strong attachment students have for the hippo this would be an acceptable replacement.

This is really dumb. Its just a mascot

As a black person, it's kind of embarrassing to be called a colonial when the colonials are the ones who brought about generational trauma to the black community as well as other communities of color in this country.

I would like to have a moniker that would make every student feel included and comfortable rallying around. I would prefer a moniker with a more neutral history, such as a hippo.

MAKE IT THE HIPPO! WE LOVE THE HIPPO

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

As a non-athletic student, I don't introduce myself as a "Colonial"; I say I'm a student at the George Washington University. Mascots and monikers never mattered much to me.

The idea of changing the school moniker is utterly ridiculous. People have flaws and obviously this applies to people throughout history. This is important to recognize but changing the name because some people solely look at the flaw and not the positive aspects is ridiculous and unfair.

This is an outdated and offensive term that glorifies a dark history of the United States.

The people behind this campaign are trying to change our history for the sake of "wokeness". It's honestly a shame that they're trying to do this, and it's the case of an extremely vocal minority trying to change things for the majority. People need to grow up and learn to live and let live. What's next, changing the school's name because Washington was somehow flawed?

Please call us the Fighting Hippos. Everyone wants it, it's unique and super fun. Stop trying to turn our university into whatever Leblanc's stupid vision is. Also, please stop supporting racism.

We have an unofficial mascot- the hippo. The people asking this change to be made are not asking the administration to move mountains. They are asking you to understand that you make a lot of students feel excluded by glorifying a colonial, and if that is even a mild concern it should be taken seriously. Take away the colonial, go hippos!

You're gonna have to rip the band-aid off on this one. It's the right thing to do, and it's only a matter of time before it's changed. The longer you wait, the worse it will be for the university's reputation.

Please change this. The Washington football team has already made great steps. There's no reason why a school in the nation's capital should be so antiquated and lack inclusion.

It is a vital part of American history and should not be changed.

I feel like I go to a school of colonizers when I hear that people are proud of our mascot. It is disgusting that we are even having a discussion about it. Haven't you done enough in history, it's time to stop adding to the damage.

While I'm in favor of removing the Colonials moniker, I'm a big supporter of the Hippo as the GW moniker.

This backlash is an unfortunate result of misguided anger led by bad actors that wish to stoke division rather than promote school unity

So happy that this is what you care about!

When I look at other school's monikers, they are mostly very neutral. I am not super passionate on this issue, but I think GW's relationship with race could be improved by the gesture of changing the moniker

We should replace the Colonials moniker with the hippo.

Maybe I need to learn more about the moniker, but there are other options that may be in better taste.

The moniker is a blemish on our school's reputation. There is no question as to whether it should be changed. If GWU cares for its students of color, the colonials moniker should be removed immediately.

Only a minority of people are actually offended by this. Please ignore them

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I just think it's important to note that removing the Colonials moniker doesn't innately dissolve feelings of school spirit. Changing the mascot to something like the Hippo I think would be wise since it still represents something that everyone on campus feels connected to. Regardless of what the moniker is, we all have some reason to feel proud of GW and we will feel that way even if the moniker changes. But keeping a moniker that has such a negative connotation not only in the US but across the world isn't worth it in my opinion and, to my knowledge, in the opinions of many students and faculty.

While I do believe that it is important to have a conversation about the impact of colonialism the the blatant injustices perpetrated by Colonial powers, and to make changes based on the thoughts of those most effected. I also believe that it is ahistorical to suggest that the Colonial moniker is tied to this in someway. The army commanded by George Washington was a colonial army formed to throw off the tyrannical rule of the worlds largest colonial power. I don't know what could be a better symbol of anti-colonialism than this.

Don't change the name, its completely unnecessary and you must have bigger fish to fry.

It's just a bad name. Doesn't yield itself to a mascot nor a logo, plus the university will sell a ton of stuffed animals by changing the name to some cute animal. We don't have a sports tradition at this school other than occasionally losing in the first round of tournaments. All of this isn't even to mention the very real feelings that many in the community have as to the racist implications of the name, which I'm not as qualified to talk about but wholeheartedly embrace. Change the name. If Dan Snyder can do it, so can you.

The fact this has not been settled yet is an embarrassment. The committee had the power to change this last academic year. Get your stuff together GW administration. You are alienating students and the moniker is legitimately inaccurate, ask your own history department.

Erasing history to appease the radical left is yet another victory for the ethnic cleanse of European culture.

Make us the Hippos!!

Please change this moniker. We can do better!

I am in favor of keeping the moniker but I feel as if there could be another option that might be a more tangible figure to self-identify with for the sake of school culture. People typically represent animals on their clothing/merchandise more than they do humans. Fixing GW's "transitory" culture should be a priority. For many students, this university feels more like a means to an end rather than a current home. The university should consider whether the moniker causes this - my conclusion is not necessarily.

Names represent what an organization stands, they matter. Please show support for the Black, Indigenous, and other groups of people who have suffered to build a country in which white people prosper from their oppression by changing the colonials moniker. It is the LEAST we can do.

The term "colonial" implies people who colonized. Colonization is a harmful practice that quite literally involved genocide and slavery. We should not celebrate colonization.

If you are going to replace it just don't pick something that makes no sense. Like the George Washington hippos makes no sense unless you are aware of the statue on campus

The Colonials moniker needs to go. I want to be prideful of my school, buy merch, tell people where I go to school, etc. However, I'm embarrassed and ashamed of it. I will not be donating to this institution as an alumnus until this moniker is changed to something more inclusive. Preferably the hippo or some other kind of cute/non-offensive animal. Thank you.

I like to colonials moniker, and would be very upset if it becomes a hippo. Like not donate to the school upset. If it is changed it should be to something else historical or DC related like Washingtonians or something to that effect. Overall I don't think uneducated leftisit students who are actually just a small population of the school that have somehow formed a strong voice, speak for all current sudents and alumni. Colonials is not offensive plain and simple. Keep colonials!

It's racist, and GW can (and should) do better.

I think this moniker is offensive and should be changed. We could be the Hippos in reference to the River Horse sculpture on campus.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Perhaps we can diversify the colonials representatives. I know the mascot looks like George Washington, but maybe we can make additional colonials, and have some be women, people of color (in the spirit of Broadway's Hamilton)

colonials is so blatantly racist and it's not that hard to change it so please just get rid of it. as a former student athlete i hated it too.

As times are changing and social justice issues become more pressing, it becomes more and more glaring that the colonials moniker is insensitive and outdated

GW has an opportunity to finally reckon with its racist and xenophobic past here. Institutions of higher education have historically marginalized certain groups of people and their stories/experiences in ways that have led to continued segregation and systemic discrimination. To not recognize that and do something about that is in and of itself a contribution to the continued racism and systemic oppression built into every facet of this nation.

This term invokes a violent history of settler colonial conquest both in the US and globally. Our values and who we are do not align with such acts of violence, injustice, erasure, and genocide and we do not need that kind of association that alienates students like myself who come from countries that have been colonized and continue to struggle with colonial legacies. That word does not invoke pride for us, it's an embarrassing association and a reminder of the most painful experiences of my family and ancestors.

This term should be removed immediately and replaced by a term that does not conjure a history of oppression, violence and discrimination.

Change the name

plz just make us the hippos

Please change it to the Revolutionaries! It has a rallying effect and emphasizes independence from Britain rather than a domineering control of indigenous peoples.

Remove this and most if not all of the names of buildings on this campus. I dare say even change the name of the university.

I think it could harm Alumni/sports/etc. if it was changed. The term itself is not harmful in my eyes. I don't believe it is the same as "redskins".

We should be the Hippos, end of story. I feel embarrassed to tell my friends and family that my school's mascot is the colonials.

The waste of time devoted to trying to please the woke mob has made higher education at GW ridiculous, how about focusing on improving your education product instead of catering to social justice initiatives.

This moniker is an inappropriate and offensive one and has no place at GW, who claims inclusivity and diversity, but hypocritically, still keeps this title.

It's a matter of being inclusive and acknowledging that not every student feels comfortable with identifying themselves as their oppressor.

Everyone understands the thin distinction of American Colonies vs colonialism. But just because there's a distinction doesn't mean there's any good reason to keep it. Why have a mascot that even has any shred of debate when there are unlimited possibilities that don't cause concern? Be on the right side of history or else you'll be forced into being the Washington Football Team in another few years.

I would like to nominate the new mascot name to the list: the Revolutionaries. The founding fathers, including George Washington, of course, were all part of the revolution that gave birth to the constitution and the United States we know today. Today the reverence of revolutionaries who act against oppressors is still extremely prevalent. I believe that this new name will accurately represent the students who graduate from GW, who will continue to fight for those who cannot fight for themselves. With the new name I nominated, I believe that the mascot will continue to inspire the GW community as the old name had once, to fight for a better future.

f this moniker!!!! please change it!!!

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

literally any other name would be cooler. besides being offensive, the colonials moniker is kinda lame

## Faculty

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Go with the "River Horses"

How the term can be understood as anything other than a reference to American colonists--living under British imperial rule and fighting for their independence--rather than than some cockamamie endorsement of colonialism is beyond me.

Consider the following replacements for Colonials: (1) Deeds (as in "Deeds, not words", George Washington's motto) and Commanders (as in Commander in Chief).

While I am personally somewhat agnostic on the matter (as a faculty member, I have no personal identification with it), it seems worthwhile to me to change it to avoid harm. In instances such as these, I believe that my perspective (as a white professor) is significantly less important than the minority voices who are pointing out the problems of the term. If they feel targeted or attacked by it, then that's all that matters to me and we should listen.

This outdated mascot makes us a national laughing stock. We're an institution of higher ed, and there's no excuse for us not knowing better than this.

It has never made any sense to me that the moniker would be something to be proud of. In fact, it seems like just the opposite, i.e., something to be ashamed of. Wasn't the revolution fought so that Americans would no longer be under colonial rule? I look forward to a moniker that we all can be proud of!

I would agree with discussions to change the look of the moniker.

The Colonials moniker is an outdated source of embarrassment for GW and a source of pain for its students of color. The issue will not go away but only become stronger if the university does not act to change the moniker in this critical historical moment.

Will taking all this time money and energy o change the "Moniker" give my Interior Students a better education?

I do not think the moniker needs to be changed but if it is changed I believe hippos is the only way to go. There is no other university that has a hippo as a mascot. #onlyatgwu

I came to GW in 2014. At that time, when I learned of "colonials" as the moniker, I was shocked but not surprised and I believed that much work needed to be done to expose the dark history of this word. I am pleased that this important issue is coming into the light, and I fear that conditioned white supremacy/white fragility will diminish the potential for GW to change its moniker. There is much work to be done still, but raising this as a topic is a good first step. PS I did not answer the first question because it does not allow for a plurality of meaning for the moniker. The question assumes there is one shared understanding--this is simply not accurate.

I'd prefer the hippo any day.

I understand a desire to have a mascot that matches George Washington. Perhaps another name related to him could work - Generals, Presidents,... or something about a quality of his

Students want change; listen to the students

They could find a better moniker with some thought

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Although I am proud to be part of the faculty at GW, the colonials moniker seems dated. I question whether it helps us position the university on the trajectory we would hope for. The historic relevance of GW's political heritage is a key strength that everyone in the university community can resonate with, however, we would be better served with a moniker that promotes a sense of unity and pride in a global space.

Above, you ask if "I feel included by the use of the "Colonials" moniker." As a white person, I do feel included...but I also feel that the moniker EXCLUDES students of color--and that's a problem. I thus didn't respond to that survey question (and would suggest you consider deleting its results as it's not the right question to be asking).

It would be prudent to change to something else that is not offensive.

Historical tradition is very important for an institution's evolution into the future. Erasing history serves no real purpose.

The reasons for criticizing the Colonials label are historically suspect and linguistically unsound.

My personal opinion is that it's not racist or offensive. The American Colonies are part of our history. That being said, there may be some people offended by the moniker or association with colonialism, and it's best, in general, to not offend people --especially when there are alternatives.

The moniker was selected by people who were indifferent to or complicit in the behavior described in my definition above. This happened at a time when the descendants of people who were removed, relocated, or enslaved by European colonizers were not allowed to attend the university. It has the same affect - potentially - as would the name of any group that attempted to subdue and usurp a mighty people from the land and sovereignty. It is past time to chose a name that can embrace ALL people and that does not act as a marker for the subjugation and historic heartbreak of so many.

It'd be more honest to call the team "The Whiteskins."

It strikes me as a waste of time and resources to worry about this matter. George Washington had slaves so I guess we should worry about changing the name of the university. This all strikes me as political correctness run amok. But I don't really care about the issue one way or the other. Kurt E. Johnson, PhD Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology GWU SMHS

I've been through this at two different universities. Once a good decision is made, it takes a couple of years for everyone to calm down, but they do

I appreciate your grappling with this issue. We are at a crossroads in history. Future generations will be shocked by how long we took pride in and maintained these vestiges of conquest and forcible displacement.

Perhaps the George Washington "Generals" or the George Washington "Patriots" or the George Washington "Washingtonians" or the George Washington "Foggy Bottoms"

Other peoples "colonized" the Americas - first from Asia, Europe, then China, Irish, Africa. Can we welcome and celebrate them all? How about the IMMIGRANTS ("We get the job Done!") or founders? Mascots of all skin colors?

It is a highly distastefully moniker for the times. If it is not removed, the university will look very out of touch and may receive negative attention for inaction on this matter.

I find this moniker deeply offensive and am embarrassed as a faculty member to display any paraphernalia with it displayed. When I host faculty talks from other universities I attempt to avoid location and walking routes where "the Colonials" is displayed.

Need to focus away from confederate and racially biased symbols. Colonials is more neutral.

I prefer a moniker that is forward and hopeful facing rather than one that seems rearward facing that seems to embed - what?



Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I worked with nearly every student athlete for 25 years and in my sports history class we often noted the irony of the name. I think there's a difference between "colonial" and "colonizer." Frankly, no women had legal rights in the colonies.

I am a faculty member, but also an alum. I don't have a personal opposition to Colonials moniker, but I understand that other members of the GW community find it inappropriate, objectionable, and even deeply offensive. Since that is the case, the moniker should be changed.

I think "Revolutionaries" might be a good replacement for the Colonials moniker.

Its meaning is unclear. A team needs a strong name.

GW should be taking action on this matter in order to help the community and society forward on race relations.

Honestly, I think it's embarrassing that the university has retained the name this far. While it may have some other meaning at GWU, I think most people in this era of racial awareness will have a negative association with the term.

It is fashionable to allow loud voices to dominate and undermine traditions and our united identity as Americans. It is deeply troubling and ironic that those who claim that they want inclusion continue to try to divide and, indeed, segregate, in the name of "justice." We are better than that. We should be truly inclusive, we should not give way to those who would shout down others to get their way, and we should ascribe to first principles of inquiry, humility, open mindedness, tolerance and debate. E Pluribus Unum.

Denver Brunsmann, historian of eighteenth century America at GW, has written on this exact topic of the "Colonials" moniker. Pay attention to his arguments!

It's literally impossible to disassociate colonials from colonialism and its legacy.

I always thought it was fun and quirky that the sports team "Colonials" play for the university named after the guy who got rid of colonial rule. Don't change the name.

Teams should be represented by a moniker that is inclusive, positive, and forward-looking; one that enhances GW's reputation, not takes away from it. Our local high school in Arlington recently changed its name from Washington-Lee to Washington-Liberty. Some people made it seem like a big deal at the time, but 2 years have passed, and it's been completely normalized. It's important to do the right thing.

It is time to change the moniker.

The moniker is a statement of fact, not a racist epithet. It should not be controversial.

It is time to change the Colonials moniker at GWU!

For me, the term invokes and seems to celebrate colonization--esp. the colonization of native Americans. The British colonized large parts of the world and ruled BIPOC people as their colonial masters. Hence "colonials." This term to refer to GW members feels misguided. It reminds me of how the British once ruled my ancestors, and it does so without criticizing the violence of colonialism. It is shameful, and we need to change it. As a person of color, I do not identify with it. All of Britain has already become culturally cognizant of the shameful and violent legacies of colonialism; not sure why we in America have not caught up with that. We must reject the uncritical embrace and celebration of colonialism. Language matters.

My alma mater got rid of a colonial-referencing mascot, and it's high time that GW does, too.

Leave it alone.

George Washington is an important historical figure and should remain as part of our identity. Nonetheless we should acknowledge his role in slavery and denounce the practice, if not the man.

I think the big headed George is dumb

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Listen to the students.

It's not even a very good team name! Like, in whose heart does "the Colonials" strike fear? "Oh noo, it's a bunch of third sons of landed gentry!" Pick a cooler name, like the Swamp Things.

Don't just create a new nickname; rename the university after Ona Judge, the escaped slave of the Washingtons. Put your money where your mouth is.

As a woman of color, I certainly understand the weight of the word 'colonial' but am not offended by its use at GW.

I like the connection of the school's name to the founding father and the history of the colonies

While I see the concerns with the moniker, making the connection to George Washington and his era will be primary for our brand identification as long as we are GWU. If we decide we cannot be associated with George Washington any longer (a decision I do not support), then the field is open for renaming everything in a manner intended not to offend anyone. As long as we retain the Colonials moniker, we do have an obligation to remember that not all who lived as colonials were in fact colonists. Telling their stories is important, too.

The moniker has to go. The GW experience is not defined by a name, and we as a community should rally around the students who are affected by the problematic connotations of the term and embrace a new name, one we can all be proud of, together. Honestly, I'm shocked that this much effort needs to go into it. The name needs to go, and then we should look towards acknowledging previous wrongs by renaming the Marvin Center. To me, the more we drag this out, the more damage we do--the name is offensive. Let's change it. Go Hippos! Thank you.

I do not have a strong preference, but changing to "Generals" or "Presidents" after the namesake seems like a fairly easy transition that would not necessarily require wholesale changes in the mascot, logo, etc. I like the term "First Ladies" for the dance team, and would like some of these second and third order naming implications to be well thought out too.

The fact that I wasted my time doing this upsets me. We have other issues to deal with like ridding our education system of wokeness.

I appreciate that GW is going about this in a thoughtful manner and is seeking this kind of feedback.

The term "colonial" is increasingly associated with the violent erasure of Indigenous knowledge and culture - not just in the US, but in settler colonial societies all over the world. For those connotations alone, the name should be changed.

The Colonials moniker has never made sense to me because Washington was an anti-colonial figure. I don't feel excluded by it per se, but would prefer something less inorganic to the GW brand. The GW "post-colonials" would be so much more appropriate, turn the page on the original moniker while still acknowledging its legacy association with the college. It's also witty, and the campus community would really embrace it I think.

The noun "Colonials" conjures images of white, elite, land-owning, men and women, who perpetuated an agrarian economy (and a monocrop culture in the Chesapeake region of present-day Washington DC) in the seventeenth and eighteenth-century based on the labors of enslaved African Americans.

I no longer contribute money to the University, in part because of the moniker.

I understand that the name means different things to different people. However, now seems to be a good moment to act in good faith and show the university community (many of who come from backgrounds directly affected by colonialism) that they have been heard and that action has been taken.

Waterhorse

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

We are aspiring to be a pre-eminent GLOBAL university. Whatever the meaning "colonials" might have for some Americans, I know from talking with faculty and students that it is very off putting to international community members, many who come from countries that are scarred by histories of colonialism. Given our goals, the moniker seems to violate the principle that we should be a community where everyone feels comfortable and valued -- for many, the name does quite the opposite. On these grounds alone, I would argue that the moniker should be changed. There are MANY inclusive and harmless moniker options that the community can get behind! I would not feel comfortable wearing a "GW Colonials" shirt or hat. This is sad, because I would like to support our sports teams and generally our community. We should have a moniker that everyone can feel proud displaying and supporting.

Changing this moniker would be a relatively simple way for GW to get with the changing times.

Times change, and what was once considered honorable is now linked to toxic social, political, cultural, and economic relationships between non-Indigenous and Indigenous people across the globe

The colonial moniker is part of the history of the university. Removing it will destroy the cohesiveness of the university and be replaced by something random (no matter what is chosen), leading to a disjointed organization with no school spirit.

I think that, given the trajectory of history and the way that a moniker like this upholds certain aspects of it, that it would behoove the university to reconsider the moniker. While there is a rich history to the moniker in its own right, the chain(s) of associations it brings up, point to tragic moments in our history. Also, to be honest, and strictly from the perspective of aesthetics, it's awkward to say or shout: Cull-loan-ee-alz. There's bound to be something better.

Beats the heck out of River Horses! This name fits the university.

A hippo mascot would be terrific. They are very powerful animals, and also beloved by the GW student body. Go GW Hippos!

This dated moniker needs to go. It suggests dominance by one group over another.

If a sizable number of members in our campus find it offensive, change to "Generals". We are the 'general' of higher education in the nation's capital with larger enrollment and prestigious programs.

I have no trouble with the moniker, and worry that I might not like a replacement.

The concept that the term is "offensive" or "negative" is profoundly erroneous, and is in fact symptomatic of a deep intellectual and moral crisis in American intellectual life today. The name should be kept, proudly. Jonathan Chaves, Professor of Chinese

I was not a fan of the moniker prior to the current controversy about the name. I always thought it was outdated and boring.

Not only do I support getting rid of the moniker, I also support getting a new mascot.

I think the "Colonials" moniker is a silly name and therefore I would have no big concern in dropping it. However, I do strongly disagree with the argument that it should be dropped because it could be construed by some as embodying an evil (slavery, genocide, etc.). I think that's a slippery slope.

I am a progressive who finds myself leaning conservative on this matter. I just don't find this term offensive to the extent that it warrants a change. And I don't think following the pros to The George Washington Basketball Team is a good path either.

I think that someone can find fault with any mascot for any university - Colonials has a positive connotation also.

Does anyone at GW care that much about sports?

For GW to consider removing Colonials moniker and then not to do it would be more offensive than not considering it at all.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

There is no necessary connection between George Washington and the "colonials" moniker. Moreover, athletics are not that important to both the undergraduate experience and how the rest of the world views the university. Even setting aside the historical context of the name, it is simply a boring mascot compared to those of other universities with stronger sports programs. On those grounds alone is it worth getting rid of the moniker and replacing it with something more fun like the Hippos.

Traditions are more important to me than the political implications which to me sounds more like reverse harassment.

This is a long time coming. Get rid of it.

If we're honoring the Colonial Army, I think something like the Revolutionaries or the Patriots does the job without bringing up the negative connotations that the word Colonial does.

If People are offended by the Colonials moniker, I worry that what follows is an attempt to rename the University....which is entirely unacceptable to me!

May be a good moniker for GW to offer to the Washington Football Team? The Washington Colonials

We are a school named for George Washington. The political correctness is getting to be tiring.

It just isn't obvious how to interpret the moniker and, unless that's what you're going for (i.e. what the heck is a Hoya?) lack of clear meaning seems like a good reason to change it.

There is a sad irony with the current focus on preeminence. Colonials cannot, by definition, be preeminent. They will also refer to Imperial power for protection and justification.

Those who dislike America, the greatest, freest, most prosperous nation the world has ever known, are welcome to leave it at any time. Flights leave regularly from Dulles Airport, which is conveniently located nearby. Those who dislike George Washington and his compatriots dishonor America, the greatest force for freedom on Earth, and militate against the school named after him. Many other schools are available to those individuals, some in this metro area, all less expensive. Those in particular who dislike the term "Colonials" implicitly dislike George Washington, leader of the colonial forces, and America, created by those Colonials. Since my forbears include the Colonials, attacks on them include attacks on me. To the extent those attacks are race-based, they constitute discrimination against me on the basis of race, which violates George Washington University's policies. Those whose forebears do not include colonials may want to spend just a fraction of their time giving thanks to those brave individuals, who created a county based on freedom, which in turn led to the abolition of slavery in a bloodbath the likes of which the country has never experienced before or after. One of my ancestors - a descendent of the colonials - fought in that war, risking his life to help free those slaves, including at Antietam, where 50,000 Americans laid down their lives in that cause. The racial Marxism driving this committee promises to help tear apart GW and America, as it was intended to from the creation of critical theory in the first place. May God bless America, and may God bless each of you with the freedom and blessings that nation provides to Americans alone.

I think the name "Justice" would be cool. It was a suggestion I heard to replace Washington Redskins but I don't think went anywhere.

As I mentioned above, if there is a change, I think it should be from "Colonials" to "Continentalists" -- OR, if you wanted to refer to Washington's (and the other Framers') political party, you could adopt the term "Federalists."

No reason to change the name Colonials!!!

I understand that many people are likely very attached to the mascot and that it has been ingrained into the tradition of the institution; however, I don't think that supersedes the harm that a moniker such as this does, to Native American and Indigenous students at the institution. Changing to something like the hippo which has also been deeply connected to GW tradition, but does not have the same harmful side effects seems like an important decision to make.

This is ridiculous

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

The low national recognition of GW athletics is unlikely to result in negative external marketing or branding effects, other than irrelevance of any produced/purchased branded materials with the moniker on it. I have little interest in this discussion and am focused on what I consider to be more pressing issues for GW. If changing a name is the will of the GW community and helps advance inclusion, go for it. It makes no difference to me.

Now that the issue has been raised, the fact that the name celebrates colonialism cannot be ignored. There is no good reason to retain the name.

Given the rampant racism at this university perhaps it is indeed a proper moniker.

Changing the moniker is the least we can do. We should definitely change it.

Unsure is a useless choice. I instead used unsure when I meant neutral. I frankly don't care what happens to the Colonial. It means nothing to me. There should also be a NA choice, as it had no effect on my choice of working at GW. This seems like a bone that the BOT is tossing to students to deflect from their agenda to corporatize the university.

I would put the effort towards making GWU more inclusive and focus on retention of students. If changing the name of buildings achieves that, then I support. If it takes valuable resources, time, and money away from better initiatives that achieve that, then I'd recommend re-focusing on other issues.

"Colonial Health Center" is the most ridiculous example. Are you treating White students with leeches and boiled bark? Experimenting on Black students? Giving Indigenous ones epidemic diseases? No to all that!

Odd name because GW lead the fight AGAINST being a colonist!!! Problem is finding a fresh alternative that links to GW and is neither too corny nor too bland.

"Colonials" is a clear, historical link to the father of the national university George Washington advocated.

At this time, we need to replace Colonials with a more inclusive name.

There is nothing racist about the term Colonial. This whole dispute is ludicrous.

I think that the current version of the Colonial is creepy.

The "colonials" moniker always seemed misplaced to me because George Washington didn't want to be a colonial or remembered as a colonial. However, I've always found the stories of the GW leadership more disturbing. Marvin and Corcoran are clearly the problem children (though Stauton and others are little better. Marvin published his racist pronouncements. Corcoran was a successionist, fled the country rather than face the civil war and then bought his way back into polite society by charitable gifts that promoted George Washington. Against their legacy and active efforts to subjugate others (plus the fact that Washington was a slave owner) the discussion of the term "Colonials" seems a little silly.

George Washington was a revolutionary leader. We could focus on the students, staff, and faculty leading peaceful change as revolutionaries.

Proponents of keeping the moniker who rationalize their decisions based on thinking like "we're erasing history" are really saying something else. If asked to justify why we should keep it, I'm fairly certain that we could then ask said person: Is there another, more inclusive term that we could use to capture that sentiment and the logical answer would be "Yes". I don't really understand why we have make majority feel comfortable when students from the affected communities continue to feel marginalized and not included fully in campus life. A moniker like Patriots, is similar to Colonials, but can be repurposed to be more inclusive in a modern sense. Colonials is clearly about the past, a past that didn't include a large percentage of our students. Let it go.

It has a long history related to the freedoms of America I don't think it's related to current diversity conversations

Consider if the name was "Colonizer" - it would be distinctly in poor taste. Colonial is just as bad. In the global context, the term has a strong negative connotation.

it's an innocuous name

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

No one even knows what Colonials is supposed to mean with regard to this university. And it is an embarrassment for this to be the moniker of a university that is supposedly trying to make institutional culture change: "GW's culture should foster and maintain a commitment to service, engagement, belonging and respect, creating a positive, warm and welcoming environment for all." Are we living up to those values with this moniker? Vocal critics have told us we're not. We should listen to people who say this name affects them negatively.

Making mountain out of molehills.

We can be the Hippos

I believe we need to retire the Colonials moniker and replace it with something that is far less controversial. I say that we have an easy replacement: GW Hippos forever!!! Of course, I come from Williams College—the Fighting Purple Cows!

I think the word colonials implies fortitude in overcoming obstacles, and not necessarily subjugating peoples.

The term "colonials" while in the context of American Revolution identifies the people who were "colonized". The term refers to British American subjects, not the true indigenous people who were "colonized", oppressed, and disempowered. It's time to remove this moniker and recognize the oppression and power that the European model of society created by "colonizing" this land.

Colonization has warlike connotations which are not the best feature of a university, despite the historical character it is based on. A name related to learning, culture, or even justice, and freedom, would be much better.

Riverhorses is a wonderful alternative, based on a piece of local mythology connected to history and George Washington. It also feels (subtly) like a chimera of donkey and elephant, resonating with the crucible of political expertise our institution represents

I can't believe it's taken this long to have this discussion.

I am in favor of the Colonials moniker because it symbolizes the beginning of the exploration of a "New World." Did they do horrible things to the indigenous people of the area? Yes. Did they set up a society with plans for how to educate the society? Yes. What they did in past fit the societal norms or that time. We have learned and evolved as human beings and I would hope that if we were to explore a new land and colonize it today, we would do it very differently.

I do not think that one can find the "Colonials" moniker to be inclusive.

I am embarrassed, and rather ashamed to be associated with the colonials moniker

Over the last 25 years, the word "colonial" has acquired a negative connotation. This negative connotation is one that university should not be associated with. Namely, a history of colonialism, Imperialism and racism.

I don't think that keeping or removing the moniker will change the history of the country and the need to understand it critically and in appropriate historical perspective, in order to understand the roots of our current social and political reality. I'm much more concerned about that.

We (GW) can do better than the Colonials moniker. Call them the Revolutionaries. Relatively same group/meaning, without the culture of oppression.

Wait till the 2020 election cycle is over and determine whether or not debating this issue is a tactical or strategic one.

Well, every word could be supercharged these days. We do have a reckoning to do as a society regarding our colonial past. Nonetheless, I do not have a personal, visceral reaction to the moniker as some do, but I understand that the word "colonial" brings negative connotations to many. To avoid that, perhaps an alternative name would work better.

This is a horrible vestige of a terrible system of power in which the white men in power at this university sought to uncritically glorify one of the most despicable world practices that exists. I have students from other countries who are shocked when they learn what the GW moniker is. It's bold, callous, awful, and a terrible (but very clear) signal to anybody who's not white about what GW values.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

If we become the Hippos my school spirit is going to sour to one billion times its current level.

It is a rather ridiculous moniker in the first place.

In the Declaration of Independence, United States of America were referred to as "these Colonies". Therefore, removing the Colonials moniker is equivalent to revising Declaration of Independence. I suggest to introduce a free course on American History to educate individuals who are not familiar with it.

1. I'm very glad this discussion is happening. 2. I don't think this process will yield much. Seems like the "Colonials" like the "Cherry Tree," the "Hatchet," "Buff and Blue," etc. are part of an obsolescent image-making process associated with the first US president. Why not get rid of it altogether and rename the school after an illustrious alumnus/a? Or, in better keeping with the transactional nature of the University, the highest bidder?

It is time to acknowledge centuries of harm done, and it is time for GW to be a leader in this matter.

Need a better name but not sure what that should be. G Dub is easier to use now, so maybe something along those lines.

Please don't allow our University to be controlled by the political correctness of the day. Examine these definitions to understand what is meant by the term colonist. As Colonials, early settlers in America were NOT the dominating component of the British empire, they were in fact just the opposite. Hence the American Revolution AGAINST the empire. Merriam Webster definitions: a member or inhabitant of a colony; one that colonizes or settles in a new country Cambridge Dictionary definition: someone who lives in or goes to live in a country or area that is a colony Oxford Lexico: A settler in or inhabitant of a colony

Whatever is meant by "Colonials", and presumably it has something to do with American History, that meaning will not necessarily be understood by outsiders or perceived in a kind light. I would think that especially people with no appreciation of US history, specifically people from other countries, would equate "colonial" with "colonist" and, in this age of "decolonization", would react negatively to retaining the nickname. I cannot imagine that there would be many who came attended GW because it is the "Colonials".

I believe there would be more inclusive monikers that would still be able to promote school pride.

There is no point in using this moniker for a university established in 1821 long after the irrevocable end of colonialism the Southern part of former British America. This is totally different from naming a university established in Washington after George Washington.

This is not a particularly well designed survey.

I think we need to re-consider "George Washington" as well.

The moniker does not reflect the amazing students and faculty at GW, including the athletes. It is a moniker of the past. GW should be future-looking.

I am embarrassed about this moniker. It represents whiteness and oppression.

I am a graduate of GW ('04, '10 for med school), a current student (expected 2022 for master's in Ed), and a full-time faculty member of the MFA.

I am not sure why this requires a large committee and significant time and/or effort. If there is any inclination that the moniker is derogatory in any form or fashion - change it. Don't think about the financial implications for once.

I associate "colonial" with negative things. As someone who originally came from a country colonized by the British, it is a terminology that reminds me of our people that had to live under the oppression of the British rule.

change the names of buildings but keep colonials (colonials is not offensive; colonists would be)

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

While I think the origins of the "Colonials" moniker is to honor the revolutionary spirit of George Washington and those who fought with him in the Revolutionary War, the meaning of the term in the present day is a negative one. If anyone in our community - for example, African American and Native American students, students from African countries - feels excluded or harmed by the moniker, then we should find a new one. The diversity of our community is a HUGE asset and our language should reflect our commitment to inclusivity.

We can choose a name that is more inclusive.

While I think it is important to look at this issue, in my opinion the term "Colonials" is not offensive or possibly non-inclusive. The mascot ties to the institution's namesake. If the issue is that anything connected to slavery must be changed, then the name of the university itself should be changed. Slavery is a stain on our country's history, but that shouldn't make any former slave owner no longer worthy of celebration. My opinion is that by the time of Lincoln it was recognized that slavery was wrong. Anyone who opposed this at the time (Confederates) or after (those opposing civil rights) should no longer be celebrated (mascots, names of building, etc.) anyone before that time should be allowed to be celebrated with appropriate contextualization, i.e. we recognize that our founding father an institution's namesake was unfortunately a slave owner, but at the time, this was considered normal.

Stop this silliness. Please.

The Revolution or The Revolutionaries would be a good replacement. "Revs" for short, is catchier than Colonials anyway in my opinion.

We should just be called "Hippos"

My field is international law and human rights. The Colonial moniker is an embarrassment when dealing with foreign professionals in my field.

I don't like "hippos" as an alternative, but I could live with that too.

I think we can affirm what is meant by "colonials" in the context of this institutions moniker and move on to more important matters.

GW needs to get rid of a mascot with such loaded meaning. It is embarrassing and disgraceful.

I wouldn't want to remove George Washington from our name. He fits the definition of a colonial. I would to be clear about why we might remove it. It may be problematic because it implies subjugation.

Always said it was dumb to use "Colonials" when George Washington is primarily identified with America not being a colony.

Colonials is NOT the same as colonizers. In fact, Colonials were fighting for their freedom. We should teach the history behind this term rather than eliminating it because some people don't know what it means. If we eliminate Colonials, we give in to ignorance and accept that lack of knowledge is OK--a TERRIBLE thing for a higher-education institution.

Let's get with the times and ditch the name. I'm sure people will complain, but in a few years it we will reflect on it and be happy about the change. It's also a waste of student energy to be protesting against this name when it can be somewhat easily changed. Yes, the signs, letterhead, and athletic gear will cost money - but it's worth it. Let's not be the Washington Redskins of universities. Thank you!

This is a non-issue from my perspective

Let's keep the hippo!

It always struck me as odd that a university named after a person who led the effort to ensure that Americans were no longer colonials adopted the nickname. But the term is established and I see no reason to change it.

As a former graduate student and now faculty/staff, I have never been drawn to the athletics of the university and so the matter of its moniker/mascot is of little importance to me personally.



Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Colonials has an us/them quality that works against creating a cross-GW spirit as many people on campus would not have been eligible to be a Colonial in the 1700s, though they may have been eligible to be the property of a Colonial.

It is an outdated and offensive term and should be changed. Everyone has always loved the GW hippo and related merchandise. Being the hippos would also help us stand out among peer institutions.

If we get rid of the Colonials moniker because of racism concerns, then do we need to change the name of the university, as George Washington was a slave owner? But he was also the first president of our country? How far is far enough?

Please remove the Colonials moniker ASAP.

Thank you for your thoughtful, brave work on this charged topic. It matters.

Don't be so PC. Stick w/ the names, buildings, statues, etc. There are ways to be better w/o hiding the past.

Staff

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Students have drawn fairly significant attention to one aspect of the definition of the term colonial. Colonizers, those who consciously eradicate cultures and perspectives while establishing their own privilege and the not so subtle but perhaps ...an unconscious belief in European derived people as a superior or preferred race.

There are many other options for our moniker - we CAN find one that does not offend our International Students and folks who have been impacted by colonialism and imperialist tendencies.

Please change the moniker. It is a painful reminder of the harm white people have caused BIPOC people over centuries. It is the right thing to do to change it.

I am neither for or against the moniker. If others are offended I have no issue with it changing.

It is time to bring GW into the current century, and change the moniker to one that is inclusive, welcoming, and relevant, and not use a moniker/mascot with harmful and offensive implications. There are endless alternatives. Choose one.

If there is strong opposition to the moniker by traditionally underrepresented students/faculty/staff (i.e., those not of European descent), I support its removal

Decisions like this aren't easy, but I believe the positive PR the university will likely receive in response to a name change that better reflects the world we live in today will outweigh the negative ramifications of doing away with an established, historic university moniker.

I believe that this matter is only the beginning and brushes the surface of tackling deep set issues within the white supremacist patriarchal capitalist system that has driven this country. I commend the university for taking steps but there is much more work to be done to further goals of equality and justice

Ultimately, I think the world has bigger problems than this but anything that GW can do to separate itself from any form of perceived racism is a good thing. If it can change the air of the campus and allow minority students to feel more comfortable on campus - then it's a good thing to change it. GW should be up on the times and inclusive. Something about "Colonials" doesn't really smack of that collective message, and so I have to challenge the "Colonials" moniker's dedication to the mission of equality....

A better awareness and education to the meaning of the Colonial Moniker would be extremely beneficial to avoid unnecessary assumptions and extrapolations.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

The moniker adversely affects the original inhabitants of the land GW is on: the Piscataway and Anacostian Peoples. Colonials also is a term that has a more negative context elsewhere in the world. As international students consider GW, this is a questionable moniker and also affects GW's positioning as a "global campus."

I understand its history as a reference to the founding of Columbian College. But the connotation of the term has changed from 1821, and from 1926 when the moniker was adopted. Not only has the meaning of the term changed, but the school has changed and grown. The moniker should reflect that growth as well.

I think there is a better moniker that can best represent GW's history and spirit.

As a white person, I was long unaware of the implications of this moniker. However, due to the emotional stress it could cause to current and potential students of color, I think it should be removed. Plus it's embarrassing that so many outsiders blatantly point out that it's racist especially considering we are so close to the White House. If the Redskins can change, so can we.

Colonial times were not inclusive of everybody and the goings-on of the era included inhumane practices that spark ill feelings within our current GW community. These are the reasons that I am in favor of removing the moniker.

It's crazy that it has taken GW this long to consider removing the colonials moniker but I should not be that surprised considering we have a president who thought the best thing to say during a line of questioning was to compare an event to shooting black people. This university is filled to the brim with tone deaf, out of touch, racist white men and women.

I strongly believe we should remove the Colonials moniker. Though it's a part of our history, we can acknowledge this history in important ways that do not include celebrating the historical mistreatment of indigenous people.

It is the moral thing to do.

Being a "minority" member, this and other monikers originally dissuaded me in pursuing a degree with the university.

Unlike other team names that use actual racial slurs, there isn't anything inherently offensive about the moniker that isn't also inherently offensive about the simple fact of modern American life that the experience of the actual "colonials" and those they displaced or used provided the foundation that our house is now built on. Changing the moniker feels to me like a mostly shallow bit of lip service to changing something that has far deeper roots and far, far more complicated solutions than this. Of course, as the expression goes, you can walk and chew bubble gum at the same time but, as I say, the moniker isn't offensive in the same way as those team names that use overt racial slurs. I would understand and support GW deciding to change the mascot if that is what the GW population wants. This is simply how I personally feel about the moniker.

I think it best to replace the "colonials" moniker. I think this should be accompanied by distinct efforts by the University to address past harmful and/or discriminatory behaviour either intentionally or unintentionally done by previous University administrations. I think while a name change can hold great significance, it needs to be accompanied by concrete change and improvement. I think both changing the name and pursuing changes/improvements will show that GW is trying to do better and support all people who are a part of our community.

The name "Colonials" is racist and it should be dumped in favor of a more enlightened, just and inclusive name that all affiliated can feel proud of.

I don't really care about college sports or mascots, but I always thought it was kind of a weak name for a mascot/team so beyond fostering a feeling of inclusiveness for our population I'd welcome a change.

I have no particular preference and the name makes sense, I guess. But, I am not a fan of mascots named after people (patriots, Indians, braves, buccaneers, pirates) as it relies on stereotypes. When I buy GW clothing, I buy things that say GW or GW University as it appears more professional. I tend to stay away from the clothing that says Colonials, which I think is a bit silly. If you must have a mascot, why not an animal or force of nature.

Please change the mascot

You can't change history by changing a name.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Please REPLACE it with something else! We still need a moniker/mascot! This is particularly important as GW has struggled with students feeling like they belong to something bigger/having school spirit, etc.

Stop trying to change, just because somebody does not like something. If the students/faculty do not like it. They have the freedom to go else where for their educational needs or employment needs. Remember they applied to come here, nobody forced the "Colonials" on them.

this moniker should be removed as it makes people feel excluded and represents the oppression of populations within this country.

We can keep the namesake of our university and reconcile with the truth of who George Washington was in the context of history as he was a human--someone with areas and opportunities for growth. The moniker for the schools mascot does not receive the same grace and needs to reflect the desired, inclusive vision of the university, its students and alumni, as well as others other stakeholders.

I do not find the Colonials moniker offensive in any way and is a tribute to our founding fathers and to George. I am offended it is an issue - but I'm a boomer and have differing views about the preservation of history regardless of if it doesn't meet today's standards of political correctness.

Use a community focus process to collect and evaluate potential alternatives. Do not simple introduce a new moniker or alternative without multiple layer of input.

It's timely and appropriate for the current climate the country is facing.

I am in favor of changing the moniker to the more historically accurate "Continental"

Change the name. Its wrong.

I think the moniker "Continental" would make more sense than the Colonials mascot if you were wishing to choose a mascot with a military connection to Washington. That being said, a mascot like the "hippo" is genuinely more interesting and unusual. I think the story of the hippo statue is something cute and unique to the university in a way that doesn't alienate a portion of the population.

It is sad that after years of student protesting and petitioning, it has taken civic unrest for this to be addressed. There will be many students, faculty, and staff that do not see this as a big deal. But this is highly offensive to anyone that has come from a colonized country (including the U.S.) or to any student of color. The GW Mascot is literally a glorification of oppression and it sends a very unapologetic message.

I would be in favor of changing the name if a suitable replacement is identified. Unfortunately, Patriots is taken.

The cost of this potential change at a time when every penny of the budget is scrutinized and when we just let go countless loyal employees seems out of touch!

See above. Thank you for taking our input.

This is a ridiculous waste of time.

Like the Washington team, it's time to change the name to reflect a better worldview. Colonials, colony, colonist is a term that describes one nation taking over another's culture and systems. British, Spanish, French, American, Dutch colonies wreaked havoc upon the world.

Honestly, I think the colonials moniker is tone deaf to history.

I hope the survey results will be shared throughout the conversation about the moniker. Thank you.

I am not a supporter of cancel culture.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

This is a good thing, as it is a step toward dismantling structures that have benefitted from the exploitation of others, especially since GW is touting diversity and inclusion, yet the moniker represents something totally different.

It takes some serious logical gymnastics to imagine that you can get rid of "colonials" without getting rid of the name "George Washington," one of America's most prominent slaveowners too and certainly a "colonial" himself. I am not saying I agree with a university name change, but I think the logic of changing one but not the other is impossible.

I believe the moniker is wholly inappropriate, particularly in this time of much needed change. The moniker is almost like a praise or term of pride for those that forced Indigenous to destroy their culture and assimilate into Colonial life. It's disrespectful and I think poorly reflects GW values today.

It just feels like an easy thing to change to make sure everyone feels included and can be proud of our mascot. The hippo is the informal mascot anyway--can we just make it the official one?

Thank you for your work on this!

For staff, we have the "Proud to be GW" festival and I think it would be more meaningful if there was something else to be proud of, for example I could never say "Proud to be a Colonial!" because, well that's offensive. The feedback has always been that GW is a transactional experience, and having a moniker/mascot that students and staff could rally behind would go a long way to improve the culture.

It would be better if we just never used people or groups of people as mascots or monikers, when we can use animals or abstract concepts which work perfectly fine and are much less likely to be subject to changing views as our society shifts and changes. Why not change it to "GW Water Horses", named after the statue on campus? That would be a great, unique name that carries meaning to anyone who has been on campus in the last quarter century.

We should get rid of the Colonials moniker from the standpoint of what is right to do. As for what makes sense for GW, keeping a lame moniker that tries to communicate unearned gravitas but only makes people upset seems pretty consistent with how GW is run as a whole (\*cough\* LeBlanc talking about shooting black people \*cough\*) so maybe we should just lean into being an idiotically run university.

He created the US Navy, why don't we become the Mariners or something like that.

In a national time of reevaluating which symbols and individuals we uplift and memorialize, this is an incredible opportunity to reexamine which moniker could be more unifying across the GW community at large. As a staff member, I have not purchased any GW items that feature Colonials because I fundamentally find it to celebrate our complicated and ugly history of colonization as a country. While we continuously reckon with our current position in settler colonialism. Again, as an institution I believe we can model integrity and inclusivity with thoughtfulness by making such a change.

Educate the community regarding the difference between "Colonials" and Colonialism. What was their daily life like? Why did they come to America? What struggles did they face? What was their knowledge or relationship to Colonialism? What were their contributions to building the United States? What is their responsibility, if any, for the affects on native peoples, on slavery? How do you judge the movements of peoples across the earth in retrospect with regard to their times and history vs. our current view? Many questions... with more complicated answers than I've seen addressed.

We know better, now we should do better.

I don't care either way and could care less about sports. I believe the education should matter more for colleges and GWU offers a quality education, along with lots of opportunities. But if people feel like the name is holding them back, change it.

It is part of the history of the University, and of America. However, I am not in a position to judge if the name is offensive to others.

I like the tie back to George Washington but would like the whole community to be comfortable with a nickname.

The term is offensive to many in the BIPOC community. If GW strives to be a diverse and inclusive university, the name should be changed.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

The entire history of this country is shrouded in a dark past that is forgotten in our education system. While there are negative connotations behind "Colonials", there are also ones about George Washington. He was a slave owner that refused to release his slaves until his wife died. If we are going to change one thing for an attempt at inclusion/political correctness then we need to address every single thing at this university that offends someone. We cannot pick and choose what we are willing to let slip by and what has to change. Change everything, or leave everything alone.

Changing the name is ridiculous. It does not refer to colonists as in colonialism. It refers to the colonists from the original 13 colonies who fought against the British in the Revolutionary War. If the name changed, entire generations of alumni would lose part of their connection to the university. Please do not give in and change it.

I get a lot of questions by foreign collaborators of why we call ourselves Colonials

I hope we can find a new moniker that is less rooted in racism, but still honors GW's history.

"Colonials" may be alienating to some students and staff and feels out of touch with current environment where we are promoting inclusion and diversity in the institution.

I think the moniker may have started in a time where we were not tuned into how colonialism impacted indigenous populations. We know better now. We want to foster a culture of inclusion and to do that we have to be willing to make small and large scale change because it's the right thing to do. We don't need a committee to decide "hey Fmr President Marvin was a racist so do we need to change the building name??" Of COURSE we change it. Because racism embedded in positions of power is wrong. Do we really want to be the 'Redskins'? No, we don't. Let's change it because it's the right thing to do. ESPECIALLY given our cache as an international relations school and the landscape changing from accept the 'great white help' to facilitating community led solutions for change. Colonials is not a moniker that suits the culture we're trying to build.

If the Colonials moniker is removed, I would like to see a new moniker that recognizes George Washington's vision of the establishment of a national university in the federal city of Washington, DC. Colonials captures this as well as possible.

Your third and fifth multiple choice questions are ambiguous. Ex: with the 5th question, I could say, yes, I hesitated to join GW because of the Colonials moniker. Whereas someone else could say they came specifically for this moniker.

Prior to becoming staff I was a student, and was prouder to share the GW Hippo than the colonial

I think it's nice that you are making such an effort to include the diverse opinions of the University body.

I understand that people have negative feelings about the name, and if so, they can change it, but please try to have something that represents our history of being founded by George Washington. i.e., not a hippo.

As the school is attempting to be more inclusive, it must also look at the implicit issues that may be blocking progress. references to Colonization are very triggering for certain populations, and should not be celebrated.

With calls to decolonize the university and increase diversity and inclusion, the allusion to colonialism contained in the Colonials moniker, even if it's not intended, is not a good look for GW.

Cancel culture is not the way to go education about the meaning and history behind the decision is a better route....

If GW seeks to be a preeminent research university of the 21st century, it is counterproductive to hold onto a moniker which is culturally inappropriate. It is best for our entire community if we acknowledge and then move on from our past towards a more inclusive future.

I don't think students, faculty, or staff have a specific affiliation with Colonials name and actually gravitate more towards the Raise High or the hippo instead

The term "colonials" is simply too closely tied to negative images of "colonialization," regardless of the accuracy of that tie. It is also a weak moniker, with only vague associations to values that might inspire anyone. Can anyone on campus name those specific "colonial" values? The color scheme is dreadful, embarrassing. "Buff" -- really???

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Changing the name while President LeBlanc jokes about black murder is performative and insulting. Remove the moniker as well as LeBlanc.

I think that GW should change the Colonials name to keep up with the changing awareness globally and locally of how damaging colonialism and systemic racism are.

Changing the moniker is a waste of time, money and resources. In my opinion

The name should change. The upside of the name is incredibly limited. A hippo would be an awesome mascot but I suggest a name tied to our location in the nation's capital.

As an African American staffer born and raised in small town mid-west in the 1960's, I understand both sides of the issue. I attended many schools named after Presidents and leaders, who in today's zeitgeist would be changed. However their culture served to provide me access and advancement commensurate to my families expectations, resources and my own abilities. It has been my experience that GW has been likewise. I regularly interact with both faculty and staff and never felt at a disadvantage. I also understand that my experience most likely is not the perspective that others may have and I can understand and accept their perspective as true for them.

While I don't have a strong affinity to the Colonials moniker, I feel the time has passed on its usage. Too many people -- particularly international students -- have negative feelings about it. We need to be more inclusive and globally-minded. It's time to retire "Colonials."

Our United States colonies took over land that did not belong to them and decimated an indigenous people. We were cruel invaders. Proudly calling ourselves the "Colonials" completely ignores that fact of our history.

There is no reason to keep this moniker. Change it and actually bring all of us into the equation when naming it - not just some random name of the past.

I think the moniker should reflect GW values

As GW Staff, I actively work NOT to include the Colonials moniker in any/all aspects of my job, and I don't know anyone else in my entire unit that does differently - that should speak volumes to the change that needs to happen! Our students, alumni deserve a moniker that can represent the diverse and inclusive community at GW. When we think about the time when "colonial" was a description of the times, it was a time when women did not have rights, People of Color were enslaved and murdered, lands stolen, etc., and the people who arrived to the Colony were so upset with the Crown, that they overthrew British rule - we are at the point in history where I don't think anyone want to be referred to as a "colonial", least of all any person who is not a white man.

As GW sorts out the naming of campus teams and buildings, there are pieces which are higher priority than others. The renaming of the Marvin Center and the replacement of the Colonials moniker must be at the top of that list.

Monikers affiliated with animals are less troublesome.

Through the window of history the term colonial does carry many negative connotations that may make some feel upset or outraged. However in its current sense as the moniker of GW I don't attach those attributes. As it relates to GW my view of the word "colonial" has a positive sense. It represents a group of dedicated faculty and staff, and a compassionate and hardworking student body. It embodies the positive that GW represents

I was once asked by an international student whether he would be required to do military service in the "Colonial Army" if he attended GW! The term is confused with colonialism which has a very negative connotation internationally.

There are many ways in which we can do better as American people to rebuild structures and meanings of things that have impacted far too many. Furthermore, as an institution of learning it is our responsibility to educate and uplift our student body. So I think we have to ask ourselves what are we really doing to our student body by upholding the Colonials as our brand and name? (Other than keeping it as a result of Tradition). I am confident that as a community we can acknowledge the horrible mistakes of our past, remove harmful names/ structures, move forward, educate and stay educated about our past and therefore uplift our students and community members (of all identities).

It's time to de-colonize the Colonials and chose something that's more inclusive.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I'm part of an alumni family and also a staff member and we've always thought it was an unusual moniker for sports teams. The affiliation with George Washington and his historical legacy is not troublesome. I feel we need to accept history for what it was and acknowledge our current cultural experiences and develop ways to reconcile the two without whitewashing history. Changing the moniker could assuage concerns expressed by the groups advocating for it and that alone represents a step towards cultural inclusiveness. I'd like to see the options being considered to replace 'colonials.' For comparison, Georgetown's 'Hoya' moniker means 'what a' - I had to google this and yes, it's odd but it's immediately recognizable.

Let's call ourselves the "Revolutionaries". It'll let you keep George as a mascot, and has a lot more to do with the political-focused studies at the university.

New moniker: "The Generals" - to honor General George Washington

I think it is one of the less cool college mascots/nicknames, and certainly have no strong ties to it. If people are strongly offended/triggered by it I'd be in favor of a change

The moniker is not essential to GW's identity. If a better idea can be found, I would support a change, but frankly, this is not one of the issues where I see a pressing need to change a name at the university. In other cases, we must do so. In this case, as I see it, it is optional.

I am an alumnus (class of 1982), a staff member and a part-time faculty member. I'm also an annual "GW Loyal" donor. My affiliation with GW goes back to 1978. I think the movement to replace the moniker is ridiculous and can assure you that changing the name will make me rethink future donations to GW. While I support removing racist names (e.g. Marvin Center) from GW buildings, replacing "Colonials" is a bridge too far. I strongly oppose this with every fiber of my being

If students and community members express that they feel harmed, negatively impacted, saddened, or isolated from the broader community because of the Colonials moniker, then the University needs to change the mascot.

I think removing the moniker is a good step to inclusivity. However it is not the only step.

If some students/faculty/staff feel strongly about changing the moniker because of its roots in Colonialism, I think that the University shouldn't hesitate to take action.

We'd be better served as the GW Hippos. It's already the unofficial mascot. Let's make it official!

As an employee it has little effect on my ability to provide a service to our faculty, students, and other staff.

If some people are negatively impacted by the name, it should be changed. Students, faculty, and staff should feel proud of their school mascot and moniker. If they don't, it serves as a divisive symbol and therefore does the opposite of its intention.

I voted unsure because George Washington was a colonial subject for most of his life, but fought to remove himself, and his country, from that status. So the name is a little confusing on that level.

In maybe the last 10 years, the Colonial moniker has become outdated and, to some, offensive. The fact is, there is now a rain cloud over the name and brand, and to anyone with any experience in brand management or marketing, this will chip away at GW marketability and brand integrity over time. It will only get worse. In my experience, the mascot and university brand are VERY important to the overall brand the university projects to students, alumni, parents, and the community. Changing the brand will anger some and appease others, so taking that all into account will be a delicate balancing act. One thing I will suggest is to possibly unveil any new brand or moniker once the university has returned to normal. Recent negative press and tirades from alumni/students/parents/staff/former staff on social media and open forums indicate that tempers are flared, people are angry, and the dust needs to settle from a PR perspective before any potential brand change takes place.

Go Hippos!

I was embarrassed to graduate under a banner that read "colonial army", it made the university look tone-deaf, at best. Following this campus-wide conversation, the university can no longer claim ignorance as an excuse for the continued use of the term; it is a dog-whistle to xenophobes and white supremacists.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Regarding question 1: I thought I understood what the Colonials moniker meant, but now I'm not sure. I do believe that the Colonials we are supposed to be celebrating were not oppressors, they were fleeing oppression and standing up for liberty and freedom. Even if some of them were engaged in practices that are offensive today, 250 years ago they were common practice. The same will be true for us in 250 years. We should not lose sight of the bigger picture of what George Washington and the colonial, founding fathers accomplished. Learn from the history. Celebrate the accomplishments (of which there were many) and condemn the shortcomings (of which there were also many), but let us not usurp the meaning of Colonial founding fathers with something that is not representative of what they did, and don't let a few bad eggs tarnish the whole lot. Furthermore, let us not pretend none of the past ever happened by erasing the legacy and identity of George Washington and his peers. Everyone has a chapter they'd rather not read aloud, but that doesn't mean it has to be destroyed. Learn from it and let it inform who we want to be instead of eliminating all references so that history will most certainly repeat itself.

I am in favor of a change, but believe the student voice should be weighted more heavily than staff/faculty voices. Ultimately, we want proud alumni since they're our strongest marketing tactic. My department houses upwards of 700+ undergraduates and I don't often hear GW pride described by the term "colonials." A moniker rebrand might be a nice refresh for GW post-pandemic. Thank you for conducting the survey. Let's hurry though, before the Washington pro football team takes any good mascot before us!

It's like Jessica Krug was just embodying GW's value of embracing colonialism.

I didn't think deeply about who these men were and now understand them to be soldiers and slave owners. The term colonial is now defining those who take land from indigenous people, usually violently. I believe GW strives to be innovative and at the forefront of academic excellence. The university cannot be those things while holding on to a moniker that represents violence and theft.

I feel strongly that the Colonials moniker represents an important history for our country and Washington, DC specifically. To get rid of this moniker would be to deny events that shaped the amazing country we live in today.

Time to move forward for everyone's sake.

It's high time we changed this. Thanks.

The hippo is great!

The GW Office for Study Abroad advises students to not wear GW apparel when traveling abroad because the Colonials moniker is offensive-- our students have been removed from classrooms, museums, and restaurants after displaying the moniker/logo on their clothing.

The above listings have no NA, so I picked not sure. Frankly, I find these issues not that important in the big picture, as I feel way too much time, money, and effort go into sports in this country.

It's past time to retire this divisive moniker

This is a chance for the Hippo to be the new official mascot.

I've always thought the Colonials moniker and mascot was silly. Who cares about some guy in tights? I've also felt a bit uncomfortable with Colonials, because I know it's a loaded term.

Being inclusive is important, but we also need to stop revisionist history and changing building names/removing statues that were fine for decades but suddenly offend some people now who now have the free time to be offended. These actions are merely token gestures anyway, designed to give the illusion that something meaningful is being done. It improves nothing about our institutional culture, but may give some the illusion of meaningful action. The culture will improve when our hearts and minds change.

I think the framework of principles, procedures and considerations that the board approved is reasonable.

Stop spending time on this. Find an agreeable alternative if it's going to make people feel more included, or don't. We are currently laying people off and valuable members of our community are spending time on this nonsensical task. It's inefficient, and instead, our university leadership could just act like leaders and make a decision, like they did with laying people off and not tapping the reserves.



Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

A revised moniker would have a positive effect on a revitalized, forward looking GW.

I believe the mascot for GW should incorporate a unifying mascot, one that takes into perspective of the actual First Nations and those who can incorporate that into their GW experience.

I am both an employee of GW and a distant cousin of George Washington and I'm perfectly fine with changing the name.

Being from European descent, I personally don't mind the Colonial moniker. I can see why it is offensive to natives. I also don't think it's a particularly good one either as a school mascot. "The Presidents" or "The Revolutionaries" aren't great options, but might work. I don't understand the hippo thing so I think that's silly, but I'm sure if there is a change people will eventually get use to it.

I would think it is important to discuss the impact that this name may have outside of sports and to those students, both in the U.S. and outside of it, who may be coming from countries or ethnic groups greatly affected by western European colonization and its long term ramifications to present day.

In my opinion, the moniker is a non-issue. It speaks to the people who showed bravery and fortitude. If there is an issue with Native Americans, I would like to remind everyone that Columbus was here hundreds of years before what we think of when we think of "colonials." Also, the Spanish, Dutch, French, and other countries had colonies here - for decades... no one seems to have a problem with those colonials. I recommend reading "Before The Revolution" by Max Richter, and "Captives & Cousins" by James Brooks.

Colonials is an outdated term and should probably be retired and replaced from a DEI perspective. A great recommendation might be to replace it with something like the "Revolutionaries" or the "Revolutionary Army". I don't think removing George Washington as a mascot makes sense, since the university is congressionally chartered to be named after the first President of The United States. While society may have been different then, we cannot simply erase what has happened in the past. Instead, the university can take steps to acknowledge the past and also reflect on what we have learned since then.

This needs to go. Colonization should not be used as positive representation for this university.

The Colonials moniker honors America and its founders. It would be an insult to all Americans to remove it. The opposition to the moniker appears to come from the ignorant or from those who are hostile to the US. Why would GW form and allegiance with these forces?

It's outdated and tone-deaf. It may not directly offend many but colonialism has a dark history that should not be celebrated.

I think it's a really terrible moniker for a university that is supposed to pride itself on diversity. I think it's exclusionary and it's also just a dumb mascot in general.

I would love to see our mascot change to the hippos to embrace the tradition of the lucky hippo on campus and acknowledge that colonialism isn't inclusive to our whole GWU community. Especially because colonialism has had such a negative impact on the diversity in many areas that were colonised.

changing it is a ridiculous, expensive, and unnecessary move

I think we should name our sports teams after the true GW mascot--the hippo!

the name needs to be changed

A pride point of the United States. As Americans, we were once colonized by the British, and we fought to gain our independence. I think this situation is overblown. I don't interpret Colonials to be offensive. Although I think that some sports team names are outwardly offensive ("Indians", "Redskins"), I don't think that this is one of them. I'm also a graduate student at the university, and hold the same perspective as a student.

There are more important issues than making sure we don't upset the British for winning the revolutionary war.

I don't see any reason to keep it.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

We are The George Washington University. George Washington led the Colonists in the Revolutionary War and forming the United States of America. I do believe that there were people of African descent who were Colonist / Colonials. I have no problem with this moniker and that comes from a fan of the WFT who did have issues with the "Redskins".

I think it is very important to be culturally sensitive, but would also encourage the committee to consider if the Colonials moniker is truly harmful. I don't know what the answer is. I think change should be made when it is a necessary step, not just as a token. Is the moniker really the thing that makes students/faculty/staff/community feel excluded or harmed? Or is it our elitism/practices/culture?

This moniker is outdated and vaguely offensive, due to glorifying Western expansionism.

I do want to understand why people find it offensive.

I'm also an Alumna and I beg you that we don't become the fighting hippos instead. That would be ridiculous! I would never donate to the Hippos.

To be a colonial is to support the removal of land from America's indigenous peoples. To be a colonial is to romanticize a complex and horrendous history.

I'm not super tied to the Colonials moniker, so if some think it should be changed, so be it.

When I look at net gain vs net loss of the Colonials moniker compared to any other possible moniker, the Colonials moniker provides very little to no net gain, but provides a clear net loss that can negatively impact the results we are trying to achieve on campus. The loss of the Colonials moniker would be a change on campus, but it wouldn't stop us from achieving our goals. However, retaining the moniker is likely to continue to cause communities to feel unwelcome at GW, even if that is not the intention and history of the moniker.

I can't even believe you're asking these questions. The term is racist as hell and needs to go now.

Colonizing is not good. Colonials are, by association, also not good.

Why not rename to reflect GW strengths. Like GW Policy Makers., GW Innovators, GW Inspiration.

Change the name. It's outdated, and a sore spot for diverse student populations. Fostering an equitable classroom environment starts with removing visible signs of racism, including the Colonials moniker.

I don't find the arguments I have heard against the Colonials moniker to be convincing, no have I heard a good replacement moniker. I believe that there are higher priorities in terms of sensitivity and inclusiveness in naming which are already being addressed in terms of building names.

I am both a staff member and a double alum of the university

Stop being politically correct!

While the term may have a derogatory meaning in pure Colonialism, this specific reference to Colonials does not and should not be anything more than a reference to George Washington himself and the army he led. Perhaps instead of changing the name a better job can be done to promote the reasoning behind the nickname and why it is important for the university to maintain its current brand.

Alumni (Indicate your class year below)

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Good luck! It's a charged issue.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Bring back the Hippo! In my time at GW, we loved the Hippo. I bought stuffed animals of it from the bookstore and gave them to family and friends. I rubbed the Hippo statue's nose before exams for good luck. The term "colonials," on the other hand, always made me feel uneasy. I'm white so it wasn't immediately striking as a racist term, but pointing out our colonial past always raises uncomfortable conversations. It was easy to see it as just another historical mascot: my parents were MSU Spartans and my high school was the WRA Pioneers. However, I have to wonder how my Indian-American roommate felt about the name. Like others, I definitely avoided naming my school mascot while studying abroad in China and Japan due to the problematic history of the term. I don't understand why it's taking the University this long to change the mascot. If the former Washington Redskins can change to the neutral Washington Football team in a few months, the least GW can do for the interim is be Big Buff à la Cornell and Dartmouth. Change the damn name already. You've had more than enough time. Stop hemming and hawing.

The university will never receive another dollar from me if they change the Colonials moniker, and I will rally my classmates to suspend any future donations if our beloved mascot/moniker is changed.

I think there are better ways to honor GW and forefathers than "Colonials" which is basically "Imperialists." Patriots would be a better fit.

It's time to stop the stupidity. Leave the name alone. Canceling a name doesn't change history.

This is tradition. It is not offensive. The moniker should stay. It represents a time of great importance and fits appropriately with a school named after the father of our country.

I do not feel strongly about "Colonials" per se, but I feel very strongly that we should not cast aside tradition and homage to the founding of our great nation to placate a narrow constituency who seem determined to feel aggrieved.

The term "Colonials" in the United States has a different meaning than other countries. It's not strictly tied to the politics of Colonialism, but simply known as a group of early settlers. There are many, many American English words that might be derogatory here but not in other countries, and visa versa. If you start changing the intent of the meaning of a word than you should check and change it for all words that have conflicting meanings across the globe.

The pendulum has swung too far to one side in my opinion.

As someone who majored in US History at GW, played D1 sports at GW and now work in Diversity and Inclusion for a major corporation I don't see this moniker as the issue. The issue is diversifying the university through various impactful measures. Looking at ad, is soon rates of diverse students. When I attended university the vast majority of diverse students were the athletes. Ensuring an inclusive culture for all is far more important than removing the Colonials moniker.

To replace the moniker, which for all intents and purposes has been 'fine' for decades, would be a mistake. The resources already expended--with more to follow--on this effort should be actually spent advancing the university's mission statement. While a single word like Colonials is offensive to some, it is not offensive to all. If a new name is chosen, there will be individuals still upset. We cannot satisfy everyone in this life with the choices we make. Our battles must be chosen strategically with clearly winnable objectives to victory. A potential name change will not achieve this.

Just put the GD hippo as the mascot, he has such a good story and he's our lucky charm. I don't understand all the push back over using the hippo. Hell you can even call him "George" the hippo.

Colonial means the person who does colonizing. In the context of the Americas (including Canada, USA, all of south america), it means white Europeans who pillaged, raped, stole the land of Indigenous peoples, then started importing African people to enslave them in inhumane conditions. There is nothing positive about that term. The first time I heard the chant, I was on campus, and my heart stopped. It was hard to contain my shock that this negative word was used as a positive cheer. It would be like using "Nazis" as a cheerlead term. It's very gauche. I am Black and my ancestors came here by force. Do not confuse my community's feelings with that of Black people who may be recent immigrants and not have the same relationship with that word. We don't look fondly on that word. It's a violent word. I have never uttered it as part of a cheer on campus. I'd sooner spit on my ancestor's grave.

I think "Patriots" "Revolutionaries," or "Hippos" (especially Hippos) are fine alternatives.

I honestly always thought it was kind of a lackluster name/mascot (the hippo was way more fun and exciting). Considering the racial justice impacts of the name, I see every reason to remove it and really none to keep it.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

It is a complete joke that this is being considered and would be yet another unforced black eye on the university and the university's sports programs. Any time spent on matters like this and not on more important issues like improving the ranking of the university and/or state of any of the sports teams is time wasted. Please stop this madness, it's embarrassing for us alumni out there.

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I will cancel my recurring annual donations if the name is changed. I don't want to associate with an institution that cowers to this type of fake outrage. The founding fathers would be embarrassed.

I feel very strongly in keeping the Colonials brand and moniker. It is a vital piece of our brand, history and legacy of the school. It is also critical the school not make legacy changing decisions based on the whim of some extremist students. These students have a critical misunderstanding of the moniker and are simply caught up in a whirlwind of activism, largely driven by outsiders on social media. Removing this moniker would be a significant mistake for GW at this time, damaging alumni involvement and our brand at a time when we are not in a good position in the college rankings.

Please change the name. It sounds like a shameful celebration of colonialism.

I think this is an incredibly destructive exercise and makes me very worried about the direction this country is heading. This idea of absolute inclusivity is an oxymoron and a worthless exercise that doesn't get students, the University, and society in general. Nothing will make everyone feel included. A university's job has never been to make everyone feel included. I think anyone who is honest accepts this premise. We are encouraging people who complain the loudest, over made up grievances, to dictate what rest of society does. This creates a culture that values victimhood and makes victim hood a coveted status. Who can honestly think that the Colonials is offensive or not inclusive? I would suggest some who is looking for victim status, not someone who is truly offended.

The Colonials were the victims. They chose to fight. I think, recently, people have been interpreting Colonials as the colonizers and this could not be further from the truth. Are people interpreting the Colonials name as a tribute of sorts to the British colonial power? Because that's not what the Colonials name is supposed to mean. I, as a person of color, understand and know very well that we are at a crossroads in America. The teaching of American must be broadened to include the forgotten and ignored. George Washington and our Founding Fathers were not perfect men, but we must not erase them, but learn from their mistakes as we try to form a more perfect Union, just like they were trying. I fail to understand what erasing the Colonials moniker from GWU would accomplish in our goal of social justice. I for one, think go the Colonials as fighting a battle of ideologies similar to the one we are fighting now and am in favor of keeping the moniker.

I've often questioned why the arguments around using people as monikers only seemed to include people's of color, usually Native tribes, but less often did it include white mascots. I am happy to see this discussion occurring finally at GW and hope that the moniker is changed. It's time. What holds GW together and sets it apart from other schools should not be the use of a potentially insulting mascot. We can all do better, and in the end, be better for it.

The American spirit is disappearing. Universities appear to be at the forefront of the movement. Those that should be the greatest ally of our nation are possibly the most perverted. No group, no matter how loud they express their opinion, should have the power to "guilt" others into change. I hope The George Washington University is smart enough to understand that.

Despite the fact that "colonial" can be interpreted as referring to a proud moment of revolution against Britain in America's history, I also believe that the term "colonial" in modern times has become intertwined with ideas like Manifest Destiny, racism, genocide of Native American nations, and a Euro-centric view of American settlement. For this reason I believe the term "Colonials" should be changed.

If the moniker changes, that will constitute the end of my financial contributions to GWU.

Go Colonials! Go Hippos! Also, George Washington was in fact a colonial, and the school is named after him. John Quincy Adams, whose former house is now a GW building, was also a colonial. Crispus Attucks and many other important figures in American history were also colonials.

I appreciate the university taking the time to address this and to include us (alumni) in the discussion.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to weigh in on this matter and give you honest feedback and viewpoint.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Making changes to suit the current political climate is disruptive and causes discord. It distracts from the educational experience, as well.

I think another moniker could be chosen that recalls the same association with George Washington's era and the romantic ideals of the American Revolution without referencing so explicitly one of the worst aspects of our nation's history (colonization). The UMass mascot - the Minutemen - is a good example of this. I would also be totally comfortable with a new moniker that does not reference the revolutionary period at all, but has some other special connection to the school. The unofficial "hippo" mascot was popular during my time at GW and I would be comfortable adopting it officially. I'd probably even buy some new merch!

Please remove this extremely insensitive and offensive name that is quite literally a representation of white supremacy in America.

Why keep a moniker that evokes subjugation?

I don't mind Colonials, but if we change it I'm very much in favor of either River Horses or Cherry Blossoms/Cherry Trees.

I want to thank the Board of Trustees and the amazing students advocating for the Colonial Moniker change at GW. GW prides itself on preparing its students and providing them with the tools to change the future: "No matter what subjects we pursue, we've all come here to change the course of history." However, it is difficult to believe in change when the institution you choose to further your thinking refuses to change.

The moniker is too closely aligned with colonialism, disrespect of first nations peoples, and too white male centric for 2020. It lacks inclusion and diversity and has negative connotations with colonialism, oppression, white centrality.

If the Colonial moniker is considered racist, and I don't find dictionary definitions as such (Webster colonial noun definition: 1 : a member or inhabitant of a colony), and we change it, than in line with the other racist name charges against President George Washington, I assume that will be our next step. Tread carefully.

While it is of little consequence to me (I didn't even remember until reminded), I can see why others may feel that it is not inclusive and perhaps even dismissive.

The Continentals or the Federalists would be much appropriate name for our teams. George Washington fought against being a colonial and it is not just counterintuitive that the university's teams should bear this name is an oxymoron.

My main issue with the Colonials name is Colonial is an adjective. It's weird. We should be nouns, not adjectives.

Removing the moniker would help with the university's national reputation to show that it can be a community space and does not uphold white supremacy

I honestly think that the movement to change the name is going to far. When you look up what "colonial" means as a noun it includes a person who lived in the 13 American colonies. A word can have many meanings and its clear the way that GW uses it as a moniker.

I understand the argument about why we need to remove the term and disagree. Yes, there was slavery during our nation's colonial period. But to conflate "colonial" with "slaveholder" does not make sense (many colonials were abolitionists like Ben Franklin and Alexander Hamilton!) and, if taken to its logical conclusion, means we should ultimately rename the school itself. After all, George Washington owned slaves. You could easily argue that the name "George Washington" is more associated with slavery than "colonials." However, instead of merely presenting the negative view as to why we should not change the term, here's the positive reason for why we should keep it and embrace it: When they sought to break away from Great Britain, the colonists set out on a grand experiment. They knew things as they currently existed did not work. And though they had many motivations to change (some, in the South, even fought Britain to maintain slavery), they worked to establish a country where change for the better would be possible. By holding to be "self-evident, that all men are created equal," our Founders laid down a principle that they themselves knew we could not live up to at the time. Indeed, we have never lived up to the words of our founding documents. But we have always strived "to form a more perfect Union," as our Constitution a few years later explained. That's the country the "colonials" gifted us. An imperfect, often infuriating nation struggling to improve. The colonists were not perfect. George Washington was not perfect. But they gave us a country where we could strive for perfection, seemingly close at hand, and yet always out-of-reach.

The Colonial period is an important time in our history, is part of the identification of our namesake, George Washington, and as such, should continue to be remembered and honored. It is ridiculous to be considering changing the name

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I certainly understand the desire to review difficult parts of the University's history, identity and character, particularly in light of how it can jeopardize some students' sensitivities to their own feelings of inclusion. That said, those who emotionally cast the mascot as indicative of racism or ethnic violence are dramatically caricaturing the character and tradition of the University; the student outrage seems outlandishly disproportionate, and while vocal in small but sustained passion, am disappointed to see students so outlandishly misrepresent the actual Colonial history of the University. (The spirit of the University's founding – which the mascot certainly invokes – mirrors our country's enduring and persistent fight to more equitably achieve self-determination for all. That's something we're all still striving for – just as GW students are reminded of by the mascot.) I'm equally disappointed by the widespread and heated rhetoric I've seen from the alumni about how many feel this issue would irreparably damage relationships between the University and alumni and consequently lead to a severe reduction in alumni philanthropy. This has been repeated across nearly a hundred social media posts, email threads, and text messages I've personally seen in the last few weeks – and represents a wide spectrum of alumni across the four years I attended GW. The University has a fundamental obligation to engage and listen to the current students expressing their opinion or frustration on the history, and should – including this feedback process of gathering input from alumni, faculty, staff and other stakeholders in the community. However, the alumni are absolutely right on one point: moving away from the mascot/moniker would irrevocably damage the relationship that GW has with alumni. Especially in light of the difficulties of building campus tradition, culture, tradition and history within an urban campus, alumni have sometimes a hard enough time sustaining a strong connection to the University post-graduation – something that has only [in the last three decades or so, really] improved given sustained time and investment by the University. At the strongest moment, it is still tenuous. Doing away with the Colonials moniker now – obliterating the experience so many had of being a Colonial – without an actual reason to – will forever change most alumni's GW experience and their link back to the university.

This is a step in the right direction. The colonial moniker is racist and outdated. It makes GW look backwards by clinging onto ideals and mythologies that inherently oppressive both historically and in modern understandings of the term.

I have no problem with the moniker. I would value reading an explanation about how the moniker could be unsatisfactory to others.

If the university elects to change the Colonials moniker, I have a very strong preference that the new name should have nothing to do with the hippo statue. It was my class that was "gifted" the statue by then-President Trachtenburg, it has functioned as a funny campus curiosity, but does not and should not represent the university.

I guess that the "Colonials" moniker impacted my GW experience because it quite negatively influenced my view of the school's administration - for a university that loves to be very progressive (not requiring SAT scores, proudly encouraging a very politically active student body), the moniker is pretty jarring. This has been a long time coming, and you should have done this earlier. It's actually quite embarrassing that you haven't.

**DO NOT COWER TO THE FOOLISHNESS OF THE MOMENT.**

If the PC culture of our day impacts the ability of strong, wise men and women to change the moniker, count me out for anymore financial support. I think it is the height of idiocy in light of a world based on feelings.

Please remove the "Colonials" moniker. If GW is to be a truly welcoming space, the mascot shouldn't look like a slaveholder. I think we can have a mascot without the baggage of colonialism, slavery, and genocide. I believe GW can do better.

Appreciate that the university is intentionally considering this matter. I believe the intent of 'Colonials' is to represent George Washington and the other citizens who fought to establish the US and a democratic system of government. However, I realize that this group is generally identified as only white men, and that colonization has a negative context in many other instances. If a new moniker is chosen I hope it continues to tie back to George Washington and the ideals of the founding of the nation.

If the moniker is changes, which I don't prefer. I would suggest the new moniker relate in some way to the Continental Army that GW led during the Revolutionary War. That way the moniker would still link back to the legacy to the namesake of the University.

Just like it as I defined, not identified only with specific people.

I understand the connection to our namesake, George Washington. I fail to see it as any more offensive than naming a team after a random animal.

The moniker itself is not that important and I do think that renaming some of the buildings may be appropriate but at what point down that slippery slope do you stop before people want to rename the entire university. History is important and evaluating these questions within the context of that history makes sense.

Let's address some serious issues- instead of this-the founders of America were colonists-no denying that.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I see this term as reflective of our being named for George Washington who lived in colonial times. Nothing wrong with that in my opinion.

I feel like I identified more with the hippo as our mascot more than the Colonials. I did not attend any sports events during my four years at GW, and very few pieces of my GW clothing featured the label "Colonials" on it.

Symbols mean different things to different people. Let's choose a course of action which is inclusive of all our sentiments on this issue. I suggest a moniker which encapsulates the revolutionary ideals on which our country was founded, something we can all rally behind; liberty and equal justice -  
- Something that pays tribute to those brave enough to risk everything in an attempt to spark a revolution that led to the founding of the United States of America. The word Colonial could be misconstrued as supporting systems of colonialism. Maybe there is another moniker that avoids this pitfall. Maybe... Patriots, Continentals, Revolutionaries, or Generals.

This sets precedent by superficially changing a name to alleviate unmeasurable concern over a name. Perhaps if you re-name everything every four years then everyone will be happy. Change is not necessarily always good or necessary.

Please don't revise history to appease anyone. Educate and inform and honor those that came before.

There is no moniker more perfect for GW than the colonial. Being right in the heart of DC and so close to so much history, the colonial is quite literally at the root of all that history. It is empowering to share the title with those who had such a significant impact on the history of the world.

While I understand the sensitivity of the topic and how certain people may view the moniker as offensive, I do not view it that way and believe that any movement to change the name is unwarranted. "Colonials" has a strong connotation to George Washington; they were the group of people he led in the revolution that founded our country. I also think that if the moniker is changed, you've paved the way for people to object to the university name, and a movement will form to accomplish that. I cannot, frankly, see how you can change one without at least acknowledging the legitimacy of a demand to change the other. And while I would not be terribly upset by a change in the moniker (depending, of course, on what it was changed to, though presumably it would be something anodyne), I would be very upset if it led to a change in the name of the university.

The name is a historically accurate reference and is fitting given the fact that the school namesake earned his fame by leading colonists into battle against the British. It would be incredibly disappointing for GW to change this name and negatively impact any future donation considerations I would make.

I feel like I would need more information about the call to examine the issue of potentially changing the moniker. Like this is a much more complex issue than outlined by this yes/no/maybe survey.

Not broken; no need to change.

George Washington owned slaves and feel free to change the school name as well while you're at it. Fire President LeBlanc.

Members of my volleyball team and I, many whom were indigenous, black, and brown, hated even cheering, "Go Colonials!" Change the moniker. I can't tell you how many times I had to shamefully tell somebody that our mascot is a Colonial. How messed up is it that we have "Big George" and "Little George" depicting a former slave owner, running around the track of the Smith Center while supposedly supporting a mostly Black basketball team.

This is an offensive and exclusionary moniker that I was ashamed to be associated with as a GW student.

I think it is sad that the state of the racism and public health issues can't take a step back to evaluate things in historical context and intent. I see colonials as part of the founding fathers. I have patriotism and feel that by changing the moniker you are compromising your ethics, the university's founders and giving in to absurdity. Tearing down statues. Changing building names doesn't address racism inequity or other issues. I found the fact that it was even being considered absurd. I'm very proud to be a GWU alumni. If the moniker changes a piece of by identity, my memories and more changes.

Everyone seems to want to abandon all our history these days. Instead, they should study history and be enriched by it.

Identity politics is a phase - do not get swept away by cancel culture.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

While George Washington did own slaves, we have to remember that the idea of slavery being a moral abhorrent was a new concept at that time. In fact, the first group of people who collectively declared slavery morally wrong--the Society of Friends (The Quakers)--did not order its members to free their slaves officially until 1774. Slavery has been and still is part of human society. I am not condoning the evils, just pointing out a clear reality check. There is much we need to do correct the evils created by our human capacity to harm others, especially those who are different from us. However, as Joseph Ellis says in his book *The Quartet* we cannot judge them by our modern 21st values. GW lived at a time between feudalism/monarchy and capitalism/democracy. While I understand the motivation to wipe the slate clean, wouldn't we all be better off to have a REAL, HARD discussion about what happened then and how we got to today. History matters. Open, honest discussions matter. Opening our hearts and correcting wrongs matters most of all.

I hadn't thought about the exclusionary nature of this moniker until you brought it up. On reflection, the name is most closely associated with people of European backgrounds (who did some very negative things to people of other backgrounds) and therefore excludes other members of our GW community. I am not personally attached to "Colonials". It would be fine with me (a White Mayflower descendant) for the University to select a team name that is inclusive and respectful of our whole community while still honoring the University's namesake (George Washington).

I think the proposition to change the moniker is outrageous, as the "Colonial" is a reference to the Continental Army, which General George Washington led throughout the American Revolution. To change this, at George Washington's namesake university would be a disgrace to his honor.

I believe there are many ways to create a new mascot that is still relevant to the George Washington name and/or time period but without the explicit celebration of colonization and oppression.

I'm very disappointed to learn that a small but vocal minority has succeeded in turning the "Colonials" into a controversy. I know I speak for many alumni in stating that if the name change goes through, I will cease all giving and donations to the university. This is not a trivial matter. A small group of radicals are seeking to wipe out all vestiges of American culture and pride. If anyone thinks changing the "Colonials" will appease them, they are naive. This group will only become emboldened to press for more demands until there is no common institutions, culture or tradition to tie us together or to our past.

I think "Colonials" is important for brand recognition of GW and GW sports in the DC area. Some of my first memories involving GW are of watching them in the NCAA tournament when I was a kiddo (I grew up in Arlington, so they were a local team to us).

I understand that there may be a basic misunderstanding regarding the moniker and its origins...this is often the case for collegiate teams that do not use a widely-known state mascot such as the Hoosiers or Bears. I think that the University would be better served with a public education campaign explaining that the moniker salutes the University namesake's command of the Colonial/Continental Army and, far from denigrating people's with a colonial experience, that the name celebrates the fact that a group of "Colonials" was able to defeat the most extensive, powerful empire arguably in the history of the world.

I am extremely proud to be an alumna of a University that is acknowledging and carefully considering how such names could create an unproductive environment for students, faculty and visitors. I believe that the Colonials moniker is not necessary to represent the dynamic, curious and free spirit of the University. While history is important, GW must also take the courage to be an institution that looks toward the future and stands for equality and inclusion. Creating a welcoming environment that attracts the best minds and forms a diverse student body is essential to maintain GW's status as a premier educational institution.

While I understand why Colonials was chosen as the moniker, I also understand why many find this offensive or difficult to rally behind. While an undergrad from 2004-2008, I didn't like the moniker -- and still don't. For the record, I don't like the idea of Hippos either. I hope the university allows for some kind of vote on a moniker name change -- and this should absolutely include alumni.

While I have no issue with the Colonials moniker, I would suggest bringing back the Hippo as the secondary mascot. It seems like the current terrible President of GW was trying to bury that. Also, just get rid of LeBlanc.

I don't think the moniker "Colonials" represent the truly inclusive environment that GWU strives to deliver.

It is laughable that this issue has gone on for as long as it has. Why can't we be the hippos or the cherry blossoms already? The mascot is creepy looking too. No more big head george, no more colonials

While I personally am not offended by the Colonials name, and it seems less offensive on the spectrum of other names used for tam names and mascots, I do understand the negative association some groups may have with it, including especially Native Americans. I believe it would be a highly principled and positive decision to change the name. Doing so would add pride to my feelings about GWU.



Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Unable to sign on to the 11/2/2020 presentation. Tried 3x, then with help from Jessica Foy, tried 3x more. Always took me in a loop to "add webex to edge" page. Unable to sign on Frustrating when signing on is confusing and the steps don't take you where it says it will. I attend a adult ed class weekly at Northwestern University, signing on through Canvas and ten Zoom - flawless every time.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h1OuEWLfaTE>

Glad GW is doing this and including the larger community.

As a Law School alum, I did not have a lot of interaction with the undergraduate intercollegiate sports teams and their nickname. Unless you are planning to change the name of the University itself (which I am not recommending), Colonials is certainly an apt nickname that represents the spirit of those who fought for independence under the leadership of the school's namesake. The name appropriately refers to America's status as colonists, not colonizers.

"Colonials" is not the same as "colonizers." The GW moniker should not be taken to mean those Americans who colonize others. It rather represents those brave souls who departed the rule of authoritarian king to seek freedom. They were colonials.

We could easily be the hippos. Or the monuments or something. Like a Washington monument w a face. We don't need to celebrate the violence of colonialism. RAISE HIGH GO HIPPOS!

I believe that GW can foster greater inclusion by changing the Colonials moniker. I believe this is essential for our reputation and to be a leader.

Please make the mascot the Hippos! It's already a part of GW that students know and love, and it feels significantly less offensive.

I am a first generation american of asian-indian descent. A group of 1 billion people who - like America - were colonized by the British. I understand the sentiment that is going around across the country on a number of issues. But, honestly, I think this is a step too far. The amount of money it would cost to implement this, when educational institutions like GWU are already compromised because of Covid-19, is beyond absurd.

George Washington was a Colonial American. Our moniker is based on historical context, and I think it's truly ridiculous to connect this with systemic oppression. I do not think the words "GW Colonial" are offensive, or are perceived negatively by outside parties (unless you are Valparaiso and still bitter over the 2016 NIT championship). If the Smith Center was cheering for "colonialism", I understand that may be a situation that needs to be addressed but I'm disappointed on how much time/attention/resources have been spent on this topic by the University. Opposition voices are loud but that doesn't mean they need to be constantly validated; I'm appreciative of this survey to allow members of the community who support our brand and identity to weigh in.

If anything, the colonial is the exact OPPOSITE of what people are complaining about! The colonials do not represent colonialism. The colonials represent freedom and the fight AGAINST colonialism! Please do not give in to these people who are assigning entirely incorrect meanings to words.

The term colonials is exclusionary to almost every country in the African, South American and Indian subcontinent. These are students that greatly benefit your institution and by relying on this moniker you are alienating them and ensuring that they do not feel welcome or wanted.

Consider "GW Revolution" as a moniker

This is a ridiculous debate--focus on the issues that actually matter to GW, such as the salary reductions to faculty and staff and planning for a way forward after the pandemic

Thanks for asking for our input.

IT'S CLEAR TO ME THAT SOME PEOPLE IN THE GW ADMINISTRATION DON'T HAVE ENOUGH WORK TO DO !

GW should stay focused on enhancing its academic reputation and quality of life issues for students. GW should also work to create greater integration of the graduate schools into the campus activities/environment. I am proud pf my GW affiliations! Keep up the good work. Don't adopt the Hippo monikor.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

The Colonial Moniker should not be changed. For one, changing the moniker would set a dangerous precedent of succumbing to the demands of a small minority who are passionate and vocal, but are not representative of the community at large. Changing the moniker would open the flood gates to other outrageous demands like changing the names of buildings who reference the founders of this nation. Essentially, if you change the moniker, you might as well change the name of the University itself as this same group would surely advocate for that next. And with a precedent of bowing to their will, you would have to accept demands for a name change, which would be completely ridiculous and wrong. In essence, you cannot cave to the demands of a small, radical group. I know I, and thousands of others, will forever be colonials, and I hope the committee rejects the demands to change the Colonial Moniker.

Not that I ever thought "Colonials" was a great name, but... to what end? The trend to rename everything is a little disturbing. Weren't there some students who toppled a statue of Washington on campus? I see an undercurrent of puritanical zealotry that echos McCarthy's paranoia of communists, and the Salem witch trials before that. Or as Ada Louise Huxtable said when Penn Station was demolished: "we will probably be judged not by the monuments we build but by those we have destroyed."

I am in favor of keeping the moniker for the reasons above. BUT, if the moniker remain I think GW need to be very clear about what it means, to dissuade any concerns about it referring to those who wrongly overtake others.

Focus on important things. This is not important.

The moniker should be changed. No one I knew at GW was attached to it or supportive of it. Why wouldn't you change a name that is neutral at best and offensive at worst. GW should set an example of tolerance, sensitivity, and progress.

Adopt the name of the Native Americans whom the colonials displaced.

I associate "Colonials" with the residents of the 13 original American colonies who fought for their independence and freedom from Britain. I favor keeping the Colonials moniker but also know others may have a strongly divergent view and feel it's essential to change the name because anything "colonial" is about conquering and dominating other humans.

I hope you're listening to Black and Indigenous students, faculty, and alumni and weighing their preferences over those of White students who are not personally harmed by the "Colonials" moniker. I also hope you recognize that by keeping this moniker, you are sending the message to BIPOC students, faculty, staff or alumni that this institution is unwilling to acknowledge their concerns or harm perpetrated against them and their ancestors. This is quickly becoming a Washington Football Team issue, where the university is digging in its heels and making itself look \*bad.\* It's not that hard to say "We're listening, learning, and growing, and that's why we're shifting to the GW Hippos." I truly hope you care more about justice and the well-being of our community than you do about our sports teams, since GW's spirit and history is significantly more firmly rooted in literally every other aspect of its community than its sports teams.

Colonials in the American experience were revolutionaries who founded one of the greatest experiments in liberal democracy and free expression the world has seen. To change the school's moniker is an illiberal, reactionary movement at best. If the university makes a decision to change the moniker, then it is a sign to me that the university is becoming an intolerant institution that makes decisions based on passion and who shouts the loudest, rather than an academic, impartial historical view of who and what American Colonials were, and their contributions, both positive and negative, to our society today. To put it more bluntly: John Adams was a Colonial. Alexander Hamilton was a Colonial. Even George Washington, who indeed owned slaves, yet was essential to the founding of the nation, and is the NAMESAKE of the school, was a Colonial. If you change the moniker, you might as well purge George Washington's name from the school's name while you are at it. Whether you like it or not, GW was a Colonial too.

There is nothing offensive about this moniker

I understand the complaints about the moniker but if a student had a major problem with it then why did they come to GW. I see the moniker as GW the man not a colonial but the name colonial now has a poor definition, tie to history, and understandably hurt feelings. I think it could be changed to a sentinel or something similar which still represents George Washington appropriately. You have to understand that going to GWU that it survived and was built with the help of slavery. Also you must understand that George Washington the man is not perfect and had his issues with slavery like other founding fathers. To change the mascot to not be George would be upsetting and not fit the university. If it means changing the term used to represent George like a sentinel, minute man or patriot I would understand. I'm fine with colonial but if it needs to be changed it needs to fit with the history of George Washington and not turn us all in hippos.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

While I understand the intent of the moniker, to glamorize colonists who acting against and attacked indigenous tribes is not right and should not be the lasting history of GW. Changing a name is not hard. It's tedious, time-consuming, and it will cost money, but it's not hard. GW should establish itself as aligning with indigenous peoples and descendants of slaves (George Washington wasn't that great of a person either as he was a slave owner) and move the university and community towards a diverse and inclusive future, while acknowledging and apologizing for the past.

I strongly support the initiative to change the Colonials moniker. As an alumna of a high school that also uses the "Colonials" as its mascot, I am working to change that moniker to the "Anti-Colonials," to change an offensive name to an opportunity to teach understanding, equity, and antiracism.

Please do not cave to the woke culture on this.

I think it is going a little overboard to change the name

I cannot understand why there could be objection to the history behind this moniker.

The United States' origin as a British Colony, and the historical context of the American Revolution (and GWU's namesake), gives the term "colonial" as used here a significance apart from the system of colonialism more generally practiced by Western powers in other parts of the world. Many things from America's early history are referred to and/or described as 'colonial.' While I believe that properly contextualizing the school's use of the "Colonials" name is entirely appropriate, ultimately it's a homage to the circumstances of our nation's founding and should not be reframed (or jettisoned) wholesale.

I was the editor of the Cherry Tree yearbook and was deeply immersed in language used for overall university branding. However, if the name causes any offense to any student (especially in terms of race or ways that impacts their personal identity), that alone should be grounds to change the name immediately. I'm glad the university is interrogating this and hope you follow through with a new moniker that doesn't harken to white supremacy.

I just want to say that while it is obviously true that continued racism in this country is a serious problem, I think it is absurd that people would strike at symbols connected to George Washington, or the Patriots under him who effectuated the Independence of the United States of America. Slavery was legally abolished (or put on the road to certain abolition by operation of State Constitutional Law/State ordinary statute) in \*every\* Northern State, between 1780 and 1804. Basically, the "Free North", that existed in this country before the start of the Civil War, and its free black population, was the creation of \*the American Revolutionary War\*--not of the Civil War (or any other post-1800 shock to the North American status quo of 1763--the date of the legal end of the last major North American War, before the American Revolution). George Washington was no racial egalitarian, we all know this. But he never felt morally comfortable being a slaveowner, and he never tried all that hard to get back any of his runaway slaves. He freed his slaves upon the death of his widow, according to his last will and testament. And many, \*many\*, black Americans, in the process of freeing themselves, fought under his command, and thereby freed themselves and the country--the most noble two-for-the-price-of-one in History. They were the original "Colonials". Basically, if that name, and General George Washington, were both good enough for Crispus Attucks 250 years ago, they should be all good enough for us today. None of our symbols at GWU should change. -Bradford William Short, LL.M., the Law School, 2010

George Washington Revolutionaries. George Washington Presidents. George Washington Generals.

The institution has much more to gain by appropriately adjusting its moniker dynamically with social norms (see: Aunt Jemima, Uncle Ben's) than to gain by keeping it. I also felt more attached to the Hippo anyway.

change the name.... and watch the donor community will walk away

I think when the term was first coined for GW students, it was a reference to the people who lived at the time of the university's namesake, George Washington. Now, however times have changed and the term has a negative connotation in reference to people who took over native lands (of many countries) and imposed cultural, spiritual, and religious beliefs and laws and customs not native to the land. I believe the term should be removed and changed.

I am bothered by the intentions of many vocal people to put a negative interpretation on many words that are in plain context not offensive at all. Universities should be immune from the whims of the uneducated.

I associate colonials with George Washington and his army during the Revolution. Is there a way to re-draw the logo?

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I am not personally offended by the use of the Colonials moniker. Its original intent was to give a nod to the founding fathers. Now that everything about our country's origins is under scrutiny, I understand the desire to have a dialogue about this. Our founding fathers were not perfect people and the things they did and didn't do has to be considered within the context of their times. Part of me feels that giving up the moniker suggests that we believe it is highly offensive - which I don't believe. But at the same time, it never was a great sports moniker, which is really how it is mostly used. I could see it go either way, but I lean in favor of keeping it.

While I have no preference, I do see the merit in updating the name. The NFL had to do the same thing recently, and they stepped up to the challenge to be more inclusive to their fans.

The Colonials are not a symbol of diversity which GE had become. We need a new symbol

If the intention of the moniker is to honor the founding of the United States, "Colonials" fails in every way. The professed values of America's founding - liberty, equality, justice, democracy - were completely undermined by the 13 British Colonies to which I believe our moniker refers. These colonies: - Elevated white, Christian, European males and devalued/oppressed all others to varying degrees - Were built on slave labor, a system made possible only through extreme racism, violence, and genocide - Subjugated or eradicate the existing/native populations in the lands they wished to control There is no justifiable reason to retain the Colonials moniker. However, for the sake of discussion, here are some common arguments for keeping the moniker and the reasons that these arguments are in fact hollow: 1. Argument: "The Colonial mascot embodies the spirit of freedom and ingenuity that marked the founding of the United States of America. Changing the mascot allows historical revisionism to undermine the values on which our university was founded and disparages the legacy of our founding fathers." See above for the ways in which colonialism represents the opposite of our university's and our country's values. Additionally, colonists were not Americans - they were citizens of their countries of origin and remained loyal to those countries, if and until they became revolutionists. If anything, this argument proves the need for a name change to something that actually aligns with the values it purports to cherish. 2. Argument: "Rebranding our university mascot does nothing to fix injustices of the past." Nothing changes what has already been done, since time machines don't exist and this argument is laughably juvenile. However, since some seem to think this is a valid argument anyway: continuing to honor the name of the system that perpetrated unimaginable horrors on millions of people whose descendants are still harmed by the effects of colonialism today does nothing to fix injustices of the past. Frankly, the myriad mistakes of the current GW administration has imperiled our university's reputation, and we cannot afford to be on the wrong side of history on this one. Denouncing the evils of colonialism by refusing to celebrate its name does not change what has been done, but it does let the world know that GW stands against racism, terrorism, violence, injustice, oppression, and inequality. 3. Argument: "Rebranding is too expensive." Declining to do what is right because of financial costs is a morally indefensible position. Slavery was a lot cheaper than paying people for their labor, but we managed to get through that. Furthermore, the costs of rebranding will be far outweighed by the cost to GW's reputation and enrollment by not rebranding. Paying for a rebrand now is a long-term investment in GW's future, particularly if we want our university to survive in an ultra-competitive higher education space. 4. Argument: "The name was not intended to offend, so no one should take offense." The road to hell is paved with good intentions. If I didn't intend to hit someone with my car, does that mean I can't be held responsible for doing so? The outcome is what matters, and no one has the right to pass a value judgement on anyone else's experience of pain based on their own perception. Do the morally and logically right thing, not just for GW, but for humanity. Change the moniker. Thank you.

Over time, GW has established its reputation as a fine university with a lot of history in its name, buildings, offerings, location, etc. It is the entire package that attracted me to GW. Start pulling that apart and GW becomes just another university. GW should not bow to the fashionable cancel culture. As I said in the past, start changing all the names, and I will change the name on my donation checks -- and it won't be to GW.

If this name causes harm to any part of the community, it should be removed. Tradition shouldn't stand in the way of the inclusivity and safety of marginalized members of the GW community.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Please let me take this opportunity to thank the task force for yesterday's virtual Town Hall. It was good to connect and reconnect to GW - including some of my fellow alumni such as Greg Blue. As I said, I am a graduate of the CCAS in 1991 and the Trachtenberg School MPA 1993. My degrees have always served me well in my career (in SW Florida local government) and I am a proud alumni and regular donor to GW. I donate in the hope that GW is there for future generations, to push for further excellence, and hopefully to defray some of the costs for working class students who no doubt struggle to pay the bills at GW (even with generous scholarships) The discussion to change the Colonial moniker was constructive and it was good to hear all sides. I still strongly believe it is not in the University community's best interests to consider a name change. I am satisfied with the Colonials name. It has positive, and revolutionary and patriotic connotations to me - as does the name George Washington - our first President, our heroic general, and our founding father. After hearing the vocal minority of mostly students - I am convinced their views are those of a vocal minority. I fear they have antipathy to the University and sadly are taking out their rage on the entire University community including alumni without much thought about the feelings of others - except for themselves. It should be obvious that their outrage seems manufactured - with a solution in search of a problem. It is as if they are seeking to be insulted by the name "Colonial" - and incorrectly and incoherently associating it with a list of woke/PC "crimes" - racism, sexism, and oppression of people of color including indigenous people. They also seem to wander into a generic bashing of America and its sins - slavery, racism, genocide, war, bad foreign policy, etc. Such as the times, in my days at GW it was called political correctness. I was an editor at the Hatchet. I loved free speech. Sadly PC culture is alive and well - and even more harmful. Today it has morphed to woke culture, critical race theory and the lot. It's as if the students have taken the discredited 1619 project, swallowed it without question, and focused their ire to GW and the Colonial name for no good reason. I heard the student's pain, and humiliation in having this awful Colonial moniker. My mental response was "Give me a break." It seemed like play acting. At worst - it was Orwellian - up is down, down is up - slavery is freedom. For God's sake we are on the cusp of an important election, Covid, depression - and we are debating a campus mascot? GW has issues too - elitism, classism, sky high tuition, mental health services, safety, lack of geographic diversity, and university leadership that is failing its community - including alumni. GW's reputation today - is not good. It was also puzzling why the task force could not - when directly asked - why this issue is coming up. It's as if the task force was afraid to speak out and "incorrectly" describe the objections to Colonial without hurting the delicate feelings of today's woke students. It was even comical when the "petition" that led to this issue being addressed will be shared with the participants "when they get permission" from the petition's leadership. What is with that? The whole point of a petition is to get an issue into the open and show that it has popular support. It's the dictionary definition of a "public document". By the way - I did locate it on line. "We, as students of the George Washington University, believe it is of great exigence that the University changes its official mascot. The use of "Colonials," no matter how innocent the intention, is received as extremely offensive by not only students of the University, but the nation and world at large. The historically, negatively-charged figure of Colonials has too deep a connection to colonization and glorifies the act of systemic oppression. Alternative nickname recommendations are "Hippos," "Revolutionaries," or "Riverhorses." It is quite unimpressive, substance free, and proposes new names that are laughable (Hippos and Riverhorses ? Seriously?) Revolutionaries has a nice sound to it - but does it not still harken back to that Revolutionary Army that - on the positive side - defeated the British and on the negative side - are associated with America's many sins of racism and oppression that were the source of objection to the Colonial name in the first place? Sorry you are offended by the word Colonial. It still strikes me as offensive as the word "butter" or "elephant" or "elevator". It's just a word - and the petitioners are twisting its meaning beyond all reason and recognition. Again - Colonial has nothing but a positive connotation to me - it reminds me of a good basketball team, a good army fighting a good cause, and good memories of my friends at GW and all the things we did together including GW Band, GW College Democrats, GW Hatchet, GW Program Board etc. Changing Colonial to something more Woke and PC would tarnish GW's reputation with a self-inflicted gunshot wound heard round the world. It will humiliate and embarrass us to no end I am sure and not just on the political right. It would greatly diminish us - and for what? If a vocal minority of preening PC students don't like the name Colonial or GW - no one is sticking a gun to their head and making them go here. If they are so woke and PC they don't want to associate with America and its many sins - then go find an island or college of pure souls like yourselves and you can complain together and virtue signal to each other to your heart's content. Leave GW alone. Leave Colonial alone too. It's too good a name to lose. Tony Palermo, AICP, BA MPA 1991 1993

I am saddened by the negative national attention on this issue from a group of students with a twisted, negative notion of civics and history.

Changing the moniker because a bunch of snowflake liberals might be offended, is ridiculous. We cannot just whitewash history and pretend as if certain events never occurred. I am fed up with GWU and society capitulating to the perpetually offended. The majority of students, alumni and faculty, support the colonials moniker. Those who oppose lack basic knowledge of American history-a shortcoming of your history faculty, as they are too obsessed with teaching Critical Race Theory and gender history—topics that are irrelevant and should never be taught. Stop wasting money on left-wing propaganda and indoctrination and, instead, teach these perpetually offended snowflakes about American history. Stand up for the majority of your alumni and students who support the Colonials moniker. Please do not give in to the perpetually offended who know nothing about American history. Go Colonials!

It's a weird name and a creepy mascot anyway...

I say that I'm in favor, because if people are offended or feel excluded then it's time to retire it...

It's not a hard decision. It should be changed. Honestly it has little to do with George Washington and highlights a part of history that is fine for white people but so offensive for BIPOC.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

While I understand the debate surrounding the inclusivity of the term 'Colonials', as a minority and an alumni, I personally have no issue with the name. The term 'Colonials' connects the school with George Washington's life and accomplishments in the US colonial and post-colonial era, and is an important part of our nation's history. Few schools in the United States can claim such an intimate connection to a Founder, with George Washington having willed that a national university be formed in DC. Despite the initial failure to establish such an institution, it remains an important part in the story of GWU's founding. Thank you very much for your kind attention, and regardless of outcome, I urge careful consideration on this matter.

This is ridiculous! Next you will change the name of the school because George Washington was a slave owner. So sad GWU is falling into the trap of catering to this mentality of ignorance.

I only ask that we hire a firm to help us identify our new brand (if changed). It's critical that those we have alienated (either in using Colonials or when/if we leave it behind) are brought into the fold to maximize how unifying this moment in our history can be! (What a great opportunity during our bicentennial year!) This is a MASSIVE opportunity to really bring our community together! INVEST IN IT!

I want to change the moniker, but please don't make us the hippos. As a club sports athlete (water polo) I would be horrified to be the hippos. But it is a necessary change, everyone I share "colonial" with outside of the university is horrified by the name. They assume the worst immediately. We shouldn't have a name where that is their gut reaction / thought.

I am shocked and disappointed that GW is considering this and other name changes.

Changing the name of a school based on whims and feelings is short sighted and lacking of value of an educational institution. Teaching history is more important than simply renaming it in the future. As an American, the colonials moniker is something anyone should be able to support.

It is an historical fact the US started as 13 colonies and then determined to break away from the UK and form its own government. There is no doubt George Washington was the leader of the colonial movement, both as commander in chief of the Army and as first President, with the stated goal to be free.

"Colonials" is a Euro-centric term that ignores the indigenous people who were forced off their land for European immigrants

The school mascot should definitely be the hippo, it's loveable and not terrifying in costume, aside from not glorifying colonialism.

Don't succumb to the political climate the US is facing right now. The current GW moniker is reference an important historical time period in our nation's earliest beginnings, and changing the moniker favors erasing many things that make this nation great.

I am incredibly supportive of changing names that are insensitive, and for removing the names of racist individuals from buildings and programs. But this seems kind of silly. I'm afraid the next thing we have to change is the name of university, because anything from the 1700s is too taboo.

While it may be true that some colonials mistreated others, most were just hard working people who wanted to live independently from Great Britain and be part of the new USA. I see no racist implications and believe that some younger people see racism in everything and everyone which is not always the case. I do not disagree that racism is common in this country but some things thought to be racist are in fact not.

Don't do anything so stupid as to get rid of a nice word like "Colonial" - it is not racist. It is not controversial. Hail to the buff and blue!

I am still proud for the university to be associated with George Washington and ideals of leadership and liberty, notwithstanding his imperfections. If there is a better moniker to convey the best parts of Washington, then I am not opposed to changing the moniker from colonials.

It's not as bad some other team names, but we can do better.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

While our current understanding and cultural views on the value and right-ness of colonizing lands and taking control of them (often with force and violence) from indigenous persons differs greatly from the view of Americans in the past, it is still a crucial part of both the story of America and the history of the world. While I support the removal of memorials and monikers that are celebrating racism or are cultural appropriation/denigration (Confederate generals and "Redskins")- I don't believe that "Colonials" in the context it is used at GW is inherently either. It is merely a name for the individuals living in this country at the time of its founding - in fact, the name of the people who worked to found this country (and found it on noble principles that we continue to work towards achieving). They weren't perfect human beings but they were very much products of their time. There is a slippery slope that can easily lead to an erasing of all the bits of the past that make people uncomfortable at a certain moment in the present time which will lead to a loss of awareness of the past and a loss of understanding of how our world got to where it is and why. It is also dangerous to hold individuals and groups of the past to a standard based on our current values and beliefs - all people are products of the time in which they live and must be considered with that in mind. For example, if we remove "Colonials" then couldn't we easily argue that we should also remove the name of the University itself? After all, George Washington was a colonial, a traitor (from the British perspective), and worst of all, a slaveholder. While simultaneously being a great leader, a great general, and critical to building the America we have today. We must find a way that allows us to understand both history and the present in balance. It is also crucial that we study and understand the history not just of these people and times, but of these monuments and monikers as well. Very often it is not just the individual or group that is being celebrated that is the problem - but the group that is choosing to celebrate them. The veneration of Christopher Columbus in the early Twentieth Century arose from the racist mistreatment of Italian immigrants and Italian Americans. At a time when immigrants of Catholic faith were treated as a separate and "dirty" race from those from Protestant European backgrounds, these Italian Americans tried to establish that they too deserved a place here and used the evidence of the Italian Columbus's involvement in exploring and colonizing the New World to support their claims. Around the same time, Southerners worked hard to build and maintain a culture built around racism and Jim Crow laws. Part of this was to venerate the "heroes" of the "Lost Cause" (ie slavery and white supremacy) (who were also, it must be understood, traitors to the United States) in order to further the power and reach of segregation and hate. Both Columbus and Confederate Generals are today rightly seen as undeserving of celebration, but there is a marked difference in why people began celebrating each of them in the first place (and the celebration of neither began until a period of time had passed). So, let's talk about what "Colonials" means at GW, let's talk about why that moniker has been chosen, let's talk about why colonials and George Washington himself are worth both celebrating and criticizing, and let's talk about why history and people are complicated and complex, but critically important to understanding who we are as a country. How did we get to where we are in 2020 and why, and how can we continue to strive toward those early principles of the Colonials. And while those alive in the colonial period did not define the "all" in "All men are created equal" in the same way that we do now, no one alive today should be so foolish as to think that if they had been born in the same year as George Washington that they would hold the same views that they do today.

Please remove the Colonials moniker.

While I do not firmly believe that "Colonials" is offensive, I am also of the belief that changing the name (or not) is reflective of my alma mater. I am of the mind that removing something that is "offensive" only attempts to extinguish our history, which like it or not, is our history. What is offensive today may not be such tomorrow, I would support the name change because it does not define GW and its excellence. It does not define my exuberance for being an alumnus. I would only ask that this is well thought out, done with the utmost care to all parties involved, and does provide for the students, staff, and alumni to continue to believe in GW. Hail to the Buff and Blue!!!!

There are many sides to this question. Some good, many absurd. Even the Supreme Court has indicated that in some cases just plain old "common sense" is enough to reach a decision. GWU, lead! Do not fall for a trip no one really wants to take.

If people find it offensive, I'm fully in favor of replacing the moniker.

Colonials is a tribute to the original formation of our country and we should be proud of it.

I am an alumna of the Ed.D. program at GSEHD, so I did not participate in sports or campus life as an undergrad would....but I still feel Colonials is not appropriate. You could be the Hippos instead....

Students don't decide to attend GW for sports, school spirit, or tailgating - It's ultimately a city school. My decision was based on the location, class offering, alumni network, and college ranking. I honestly don't think any of my GW friends would care if the mascot changed.

So, it isn't in the fight song, and although it is in lots of places on campus those can be painted over. GW is our mascot- not a person dressed as a colonial so why we need the term "colonial" is unclear to me. De-colonializing GW would mean this alum no longer has to explain to people at academic conferences why we still have this as our moniker in 2020.

I understand it is part of US history but I can see that colonialism is a painful reminder for people whose ancestors were subjugated during this time period and would not feel represented. Because I don't feel strongly about the Colonials moniker I think it might be better to use one more inclusive to the whole student body.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

GW leadership should replace the racists moniker forthwith, and change it to GW Hippos - as hippos are ferocious - in honor of the hippo statue on campus.

Accept the past for the history of the time. Not all changes are productive. Concentrate on the integrity of values and truth.

I have been a member of the GW community as a student and now-alumnus since 2003. I have never, until now, heard anyone suggest that the name "colonials" is offensive, non-inclusive, or makes anyone in the community feel "unsafe". When used in context with the name of the school, the colors, the mascots, the logos, and the apparel, the moniker clearly refers to colonial-era Americans who fought with the namesake of our University to win independence from the British. It does not refer to early settlers who oppressed indigenous peoples. Everyone seems to have understood that until now. What changed? You need to strain to find the slightest inkling of offense in the name, and you would need to completely ignore the entire context in which it is used. This is a teaching moment for your students. History is almost never black and white. The founding of our country was a wonderful moment, but it was hardly perfect. That does not mean that we "cancel" our forbearers and ignore all that is good about the nation they made. If the name "colonials" is offensive or non-inclusive, you might as well find offense in "Americans" – after all, the "colonials" or "colonists" are simply predecessors to Americans. Indeed our entire country rests on land that once belonged to indigenous peoples. Where does it end? If "colonials" is offensive, is it really such a stretch to call for the name of the entire University to be changed, since George Washington was a slaveowner? What about the Mount Vernon campus, which is named after the plantation where George Washington owned slaves. Or the mascot (which celebrates a slaveowner) and buff and blue colors (colors of the Virginia regiment, a slave state, and those worn by colonial soldiers)? Maybe you should move the University to a different city, because Washington DC was built by slaves. If you want to create a cause celebre, you can find offense in virtually anything because history is messy and complicated. But just because you do not agree with everything that an historical name represents does not mean that you have reason to find offense in it, especially if you are being honest about the context in which the name is being used. The moniker is not a racial slur (Redskins, Orangemen). It honors the great but imperfect people who fought for our independence. Help the students understand that, not cancel it.

Those who are offended or impacted negatively by the moniker likely do not fully understand what it means. It is NOT in reference to colonizing other nations and forcing a culture upon them. It is, in fact, the complete opposite. It was a group of people who did not feel included or represented by their government and felt that their needs were not being met and, in fact, were being exploited by the powers at be. Changing the moniker to appease those who do not truly understand its meaning would be an offense to the founding fathers and peoples who helped create and shape this country. Informing and educating people on what the true meaning of the Colonials moniker means would be a better use of time and resources. I honestly hope that this board takes a stand and actually tries to engage and inform the community, instead of just making a change to seem like they care.

Thank you for rethinking this. As a white person, I feel negatively about the moniker. As a descendent (or at least a beneficiary) of colonists, I don't feel it is a part of my history to be celebrated. It should not be forgotten, but it should be viewed critically and not praised.

I see no reason to change the name of GWU's moniker. My undergraduate institution had the fighting blue-hens as its moniker/mascot. I wouldn't have insisted it be changed simply because I didn't feel included as I am neither blue, nor a chicken. Though I am not a descendant of the original inhabitants of the colonies from which our nation was formed, I am very grateful for the principles they supported and the country they established. It took great courage both to stand up to one of the most powerful monarchs in the world at the time, to engage in intelligent civil discourse, and to compromise in order to establish our great nation, one which my grandparents and great-grandparents flocked to as a safety from oppression. It was for them as it is for me, a place to be judged, not by the colour of my skin, nor my accent, nor my faith, but by the content of my character. I proud to be an American, and to call George Washington University, home of the Colonials, my Alma Mater.

It's a terrible fucking team name anyway

Absolutely ridiculous that grown adults leading a University are caught up in such silly things. If a DC university does not know that America grew from COLONIAL beginnings, and you fear youthful ignorance and are afraid of your own community to instruct properly about these things - you have no principles, only blow with the social wind. This whole concern has led me to renounce any future association, recommendation or giving to your university. As a Faculty Research Engineer at another university, I am not advising junior employees to consider GW. What a waste of time for a University to pursue such nonsense. Lt Col Scott Poynter, USAF (Ret) M.S. EMSE 2014

I'd love a change that speaks to the best ideals of that era, without excluding anyone or using exclusionary language (how about "Revolutionaries"?). I also submit the example of Queen Dolly Parton on her decision to change the Dollywood attraction "Dixie Stampede" to simply "the Stampede": "As soon as you realize that [something] is a problem, you should fix it. Don't be a dumbass. That's where my heart is. I would never dream of hurting anybody on purpose." If we now understand that "Colonials" is a moniker that some find hurtful, why would we even consider retaining it? Change it.

Who cares, if folks want to change go for it.



Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

We should be proud to be Colonials.

I believe that this moniker has always and continues to be, but especially more so during this current time, incredibly insensitive, in bad taste, and reflective of a colonial mindset that works to erase indigenous experience and lives. Most heinously, this moniker valorizes a violent history that is also at once disavowed. I do not believe that GWU can move forward without being accountable to the harm done to indigenous people, students, faculty and staff by just now (2020!!!!) considering the impact of this deeply disturbing moniker.

This is a no brainer. It is an embarrassing mascot and absolutely must be changed.

The term Colonials is a historical reference to a group of people who inhabited the first 13 colonies and as such are widely considered to be among the founders of this country. I am not in favor of attempting to negate or forget our country's history. I believe that we should teach and understand American history, both its good and bad aspects. Attempting to erase our history by tearing down statues and removing references to historically significant groups of people is a shameful exercise and GWU should not be a party to it.

As I said: it is not a good mascot. A big weird cartoon... man in a powdered wig? It is a dumb mascot and doesn't make sense.

Rather than wasting time and resources on a toothless cosmetic change, which merely serves as virtue signal, GW should instead refocus its efforts on making itself attainable and accessible to students of color. Restorative actions are actually effective in addressing systemic racism that results in racial disparities in higher education, especially at elite universities like GW. Furthermore, I am astonished by the decision to remove the busts of our founder and namesake of the campus and city, President George Washington. GW is a space for growing through complex and difficult conversations of history. It is disheartening to see the administration bow to a select few who demand a purity test to which GW, like all persons and institutions, will inevitably fail.

Patriots, George's Army, Hippos, Revolutionaries, all better options that keep the spirit

Very not sure. If this were the context of British colonialism it would be one thing, but here, in the U.S., we have our original 13 colonies, it's on the flag... if one wants to take issue with the entire foundational history of this country we basically would need to start over and re-brand everything, including the flag! So my gut feels like it's taking this too far when even "Colonials" becomes problematic. That said, it doesn't matter to me personally, so if other people feel there is a need to change it, I don't know that I care. It's more of the slippery slope I am concerned about.

The concept of Colonialism does not properly reflect modern values. The stuffed animal mascot looks goofy. Isn't a "Colonist" someone originating from a European kingdom, or a European "colony." I think its time for change.

If and when buildings are renamed or the moniker dropped I will cease alumni donations.

We can not erase our past. The times and actions of the past can not be judged on today's standards. The Colonials who worked to organize our country should not be forgotten or disregarded. I might sound old but I feel strongly on this issue. Thank you for asking for input.

This is revisionism all over. This is history. Let it be.

In the absence of any other anti-racist work the University can do, removing the name is the very least action that can be taken to demonstrate a desire for a welcoming and safe campus for all people.

I'm also a big fan of the hippo. It is both irreverent and unifying. Easy to rally around.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I urge you to keep the Colonials moniker. Although I did not attend the GWU as an undergraduate, I still felt perfectly at home completing my Ph.D. here. I proudly display the GWU and the Colonials names on clothing, my license plate, and resume because the names act as my connection to the wonderful time I had completing my Ph.D. here. Removing the Colonials name would remove a link to my feelings of attending GWU. I ask that you look at this situation from a different perspective at what the average person thinks when they hear the name George Washington Colonials. They most likely summon up the same feelings of freedom, founding, and patriotism. Even the Freemason "Colonial Lodge No. 1821" (dedicated to affiliates of GWU) uses the term Colonial because of connection to the university. Why would they select a term that would damage their image? Was the past perfect? No. But, the founding fathers laid the framework that we are constantly improving upon. If we start to pick out all of the evils of the past using hindsight, we overlook how influential and great the decisions and actions were at that particular time. If removing names is happening for the Colonials moniker, what is to stop the same advocating for changing the name George Washington? Changing the Colonials moniker can set a precedent for changing anything else if there is a vocal enough group (no matter how small). Please do not let a small group change a name that has been around for almost 100 years. Again, I enjoyed my time at GWU and am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to attend; however, I will be disappointed if the name is changed and will feel like I lost my connection to GWU. Thank you for your time.

I do not have a problem with the Colonials moniker. To me, the name does not hold negative connotations - it is not equivalent to imperialism or empire-building, for example, and not nearly as offensive as the former name of the NFL's Washington Football Team. However, I recognize that my personal experiences may be vastly different than those of others. If the name is to be changed to something else (Generals, maybe?), my feelings towards the university would not change. It is far more important to me to cultivate an environment of inclusion and acceptance.

I applaud your efforts, but for me, I think there are much bigger and more important issues to be concerned with at this time in our lives.

Seems like there are more important issues to address at GW. Tuition, academic programs, ethical behavior of certain professors in the news

I never liked the Colonials moniker. I would suggest simply changing it to the Hippos as it is our unofficial mascot anyway.

This is nothing short of ridiculous. What's wrong with the word 'colonial'? I will be seriously ashamed of ever attending GW if the university decides to change this innocent moniker because of apparently a select few. And for what? Let's be productive and instead focus on creating better education opportunities.

In terms of offensiveness, we could do worse. But is that the standard we want?

I believe removing the Colonials moniker and changing it would be a huge mistake. The Colonials were everyday people living in the new world. This is not the "colonialism" attributed to the British and what they did in other parts of the world. Two totally different meanings.

I think that changing the name to the "Revolutionaries" instead of the "Colonials" would achieve the same goal of honoring George Washington and other founding fathers' contributions to our country, and evokes more positive aspects of that time period, rather than celebrating and glorifying the tragic beginnings and harmful colonialism that motivated our country's founding and resulted in intense harm to the indigenous communities that already lived here.

Life is complicated and these questions are complex, surely; but it's not our place to write/record history to make ourselves feel better... nor should we attempt to erase or forget history. - While I don't think we can be held accountable for the behaviors of people from generations ago, we need to be honest about the present and everything that got us here. - We need to acknowledge when (and why) things are not equitable and inclusive. We need to see what we can do to move forward by acknowledging our past and paving the way forward to a better and brighter world. - The positive (and some might argue superficial) feelings of some people about a school/sports mascot or moniker should not outweigh the negative connotations of and direct connections to oppression, racism and lack of freedom that they represent to entire groups of people today and throughout history. - I understand that the captains of the football/basketball/soccer team may have never spent even 5 minutes thinking about the history and symbolism of the team name, moniker and mascot... what it says, what it means and how that impacts others. No judgment there. But now that we are more aware, now that we know and better understand, we have a duty to address that in a responsible way. - Consequently, I am in favor of leaving "The Colonials" behind. It will be hard for some, but it is the right thing to do. - Let's be leaders as we move forward as a stronger, more inclusive GWU community. - - - This quote comes to mind... - "I did then what I knew how to do. Now that I know better, I do better." -- Maya Angelou

Change the name.

A moniker that honors our heritage is not a mark of shame. We need to stop overreacting to "political correctness".

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

The "Colonials," rather than being colonial powers themselves at this time, actually led a successful insurrection against colonialism and European imperialism. The moniker, I imagine, was coined as a tribute to these men and our country's great expression of sovereignty. That being said, we all need to remember the great harm that white Europeans inflicted against Native peoples in their original settlement in the New World. The impulse to reckon with this past is usually a good one that should be encouraged. In some cases, however, it misfires. The Colonials moniker may be one such example and I urge caution. I would worry about being smug and self-indulgent in quoting this, but we're GW after all. So I'll say, as Chesterton wrote: "The more modern type of reformer goes gaily up to [a fence] and says, "I don't see the use of this; let us clear it away." To which the more intelligent type of reformer will do well to answer: "If you don't see the use of it, I certainly won't let you clear it away. Go away and think. Then, when you can come back and tell me that you do see the use of it, I may allow you to destroy it.""

As a pioneering university in the United States urged to be formed in DC by George Washington, the GWU should keep its current name and Colonials moniker.

I always liked the unofficial Hippo mascot.

While I can understand potential arguments for dissent from the Colonials moniker, I feel much more strongly in favor of keeping it. As I mentioned above, the term "Colonials" is weighted with history--the good and the bad--that formed this country. As a black latina, I can see how one may choose to feel excluded by the term. The reality is, however, that iterations of colonization has taken place since the beginning of world history by all different kinds of people, including people who look like me and/or share my ethnic background. I do not believe that the moniker Colonials necessarily glorifies the evil deeds of American colonists. Instead, I believe it acknowledges and commemorates the US Colonial era, including those enslaved by the colonist. As a black, first generation Latina, American citizen, I am proud to be a GW Colonial Alumni.

It is not offensive unless it celebrates colonialism, a different concept. More concern with academic excellence please!

Though the term colonialism has a negative connotation, I think that "colonial" in the context of George Washington means a specific and distinct thing. The history of our country - and many of the colonials that our moniker represents - may not be perfect but no one's is, and neither this school nor this country nor any of us would be in this place without it. We should spend less time worrying about optics and more time working to right what we now see were historical wrongs.

It is such a simple change to make that will make the university a much more inclusive and safe space. Holding on to this moniker for "tradition" is absurd. Colonial has painful and at times harmful implications for many students of color and international students. Remove the moniker, make GW a safer space.

I think it is absurd that this is being considered. The name should not be changed, as it is not remotely offensive. I will be offended and my opinion of my George Washington diploma and the school's reputation will be severely negatively impacted if the moniker is changed.

Quit bowing down to the few I am a proud colonial proud of its history

I get that the term Colonial can be loaded, but I think if we focus on the positives (much like we have to with George Washington), I don't have an issue with the word

The university should ask itself - is it going down this path (an expensive one, nonetheless) because it really cares or because it is facing external pressure.

Nowadays, it gives off the feeling of "Colonizer" as expressed in the film The Black Panther. It seems kind of like you're inadvertently perpetuating Imperial culture. I know that's not the purpose or meaning of the moniker, but in our modern world, it seems a little outdated. Maybe something like the Continentals would work better?

I don't think there was an original intention of disrespect in the use of Colonials, but we need to Rise Up. It's time to move forward and respect all people.

Re-naming buildings is normal (I was at GW when my freshman dorm was changed from Calhoun Hall). We learn about the people who were memorialized in the past and no longer feel pride. My only beef would be that "colonial" makes a better adjective than noun.

I believe the use of the colonials moniker is antithetical to the goal of increasing diversity amongst the GWU student and faculty bodies.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Like the former name of the Washington Football Team, this name "Colonials" only gets worse with age and becomes more distracting/embarrassing every year. The controversy won't go away, and the name won't ever be worthwhile again. Let it go, and move on - the sooner the better

Remove this mascot immediately.

Keep up the good work and focus on reducing tuition costs and improving education experiences for all students

Please tell me this isn't another PC attempt to placate leftists and their grievance politics. But of course it is. Let me guess...they equate Colonials with colonialism, one of the current mortal sins of white men and western civilization. Get some backbone, GW! Don't just bend over when some group who has no historical understanding makes some infantile demands. You shouldn't be considering this at all. If you had any integrity, you would have given them a history lesson and told them to grow up. Don't cave to the emotionally immature and perpetually offended.

I think it would be good to keep a name affiliated with the military since that was Washington's history. He never went to college and that's why the military meant so much to his background. A name like "Blue Coats" or "Patriots" or "Continental" or "Revolutionaries" works the same.

It's not the school's #1 problem. They should be focusing on dining options, student debt, treatment of employees. The name colonials was not created in hate nor is it seen as hate.

keep the moniker

The University is named for George Washington, who was in the Virginia militia and a general in the Continental Army. "Continental" doesn't quite roll off the tongue like "Colonial". The colors of the university are those of the Continental Army. I guess we could have been the "Revolutionaries" or the "Soldiers"? Any notion that the moniker refers to British colonization of Africa is absurd.

No offense should be taken where no offense was meant to be given. The moniker clearly refers to George Washington, after whom the University is named. Removing it under present circumstances would be ridiculous, and an abject capitulation to the demands of profoundly illiberal ideologues (critical race theorists and their ilk).

Keeping the colonials moniker is an act of violence against Black and Indigenous folks. Get rid of it.

Hippos are so much more fun

This issue is ridiculous. The University should not bow to pressure from a group whose interpretation of a term is grossly inaccurate and an insult to history.

I think the Colonials moniker should be replaced by something that more people can identify with and rally behind.

Even if you take out what the British colonies stood for and did in world history, the name still insinuates that we enjoyed being a colony of the British Empire. Even someone who is indifferent to the ills of the Empire wouldn't agree with that, since it's what we fought a war over.

The fact that there has been a "Special Committee on the Colonials Moniker" created is absolutely absurd and quite frankly a disgrace. I am embarrassed to be affiliated with a University that is even considering renaming their "Colonials" mascot. I can not understand how anyone could possibly be triggered by "Colonials", a mascot that represents the founders of this country, which was created on the principles of freedom. For anyone who is in favor of changing the "Colonials" mascot, I urge them to briefly review The Bill of Rights to remind themselves what the Colonials fought and sacrificed for. For anyone still offended by this mascot, I would also remind them that they live in a country where they have the freedom to choose whether or not to attend a certain university. No one forced them to attend GWU. If the vote is confirmed to change the Colonials mascot, I will assume GWU will also need to change the name of the university? George Washington was a slave owner, after all. And apparently this is triggering to the millennial generation.

In general, I'm all for removing genuinely offensive mascots (like Washington's NFL team) but changing GW's mascot based on an unrelated meaning of the word is taking it way too far.

I feel you should be addressing the buildings which were named after racist staff/alumni/leaders before working on the colonial moniker.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

We can celebrate the dedicated and creative revolutionary spirit of the Colonial Army without celebrating its intrinsic connection to English/American colonization of indigenous territories. The moniker "Colonials" implies a celebration of \*specifically\* the colonial aspect of this army, rather than the litany of other suggestions that have been proposed: Bluecoats, Revolutionaries, etc. Given our current cultural winds, it will not be long before this starts becoming a financial burden. The overwhelmingly progressive Gen Z will be discouraged from attending a university with the Colonials moniker. Many in my class, including myself, cannot foresee donating to the GW Colonials. The GW Revolutionaries, on the other hand? I'd be more easily convinced!

I think it should stay the same, but if it is changed, it should be something related - Generals, Continentals, Presidents, Statesmen, Patriots, etc.

Changing the moniker will make me less inclined to contribute to GW (I am a regular donor and member of both the Luther Rice and Heritage Societies.

Just don't change the mascot to something stupid. Hippos seem like an obvious and perfectly good substitution.

I'm proud of my GW affiliation and see nothing wrong whatsoever in attending a school in the District of Columbia named after the first president, George Washington. There is no person, or period of history without faults. By focusing on trivial arguments like a college mascot, we're taking time away from focusing on the issues that matter, and encouraging spirited debate among young people rather than making snap decisions such as this.

A school named after George Washington, the greatest American ever and one of the greatest people ever, should be able to use "Colonial." The school is not named after someone from the 19th Century.

Colonial is often associated with negative international practices. If you wanted to keep to the historical importance of the university and its link with George Washington, maybe the "Framers" would be a better moniker. We related more to the hippo and that's what we take our kids to see when we return to campus.

while we do live in a new politically correct environment - the Colonials is as neutral as you can get

The "Colonials" moniker has been in use for almost 100 years and is part of the history of GW. The most important consideration for any name change should be financial. People who are advocating for the abolishment of the name should be the ones who pay for all changes needed for the renaming.

Want to know what other possible renaming, if any, are contemplated

While the Colonials is weak, there is no offensive aspect to it if one understands we were the colonists not the colonizers. If name changed I am giving up on GW. Very sad.

It's embarrassing to have it be the moniker for my alma mater, and as a student it made me very uncomfortable to have to root for the "Colonials" at sporting events

To even consider changing the name is ridiculous, and, frankly, I'm embarrassed for GW on this matter. The name does not connote any other meaning than early American patriots who founded this country - just like the University's namesake. For someone to politicize the name and feel like it is demeaning toward them in any way is just a brazen attempt to create a problem for the University that has never existed before.

I don't see the problem with the Colonials moniker, and as such, I am not opposed to keeping it.

I am happy this issue is being addressed, but disappointed that it took this long and the deaths of countless innocent Black and brown lives to finally be widely considered.

The mascot is absolutely exclusive and drives off potential BIPOC students. It is antiquated and must be changed

In this time of social change, it is important for institutions such as GWU to evaluate the origin of the names and monikers that are a part of their culture and traditions. George Washington is a critical part of our history as a country. There may be other things we can celebrate about his legacy beyond the colonial moniker.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I understand the association but, looking at other team mascots, Colonials never had a tough frightening reputation. I always wondered how this was chosen as the mascot.

How about what the people who fought for freedom were: "Revolutionaries" or the GW Revolution!?

GW has a proud history and should be honored to bear the name of our country's first president. Caving to the current politically motivated media hysteria by changing the school's name or mascot would be a disservice to the school's namesake and would cause me to cease supporting it

I am glad GW is consulting with the community and taking steps to become a more inclusive university and I am solidly in favor of changing the Colonials moniker.

This really shouldn't require a survey or a committee. You have a group of historically marginalized students asking to be heard. What is so complicated about that? Get a different mascot. Anything short of changing the mascot is just lip service and half hearted attempts to disguise the fact that the board doesn't want to spend money removing the monicker.

I do have very strong feelings about this, but when asked it makes me think. Do I really want to be a colonial? They weren't great people. George Washington wasn't so great when you start picking apart some of his personal life details. I think we should fix what we can.

The moniker ought to be maintained as it clearly references the birth of our country, the first founded upon beliefs about the fundamental rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The history of the United States is one which displays how we as a country and people have struggled to make these aspirational values include an ever widening group of people. Indeed, these are universal values and although they have not always been applied to all, the underlying philosophical impulse, grasped by our Colonial Founding Fathers is one that ought to be celebrated and promoted. The University should try to instill this civic appreciation in its students, many of whom will enter public service.

I think if members of the GW community are people of color feel "Colonials" should change, then I'm all for it. I've never thought it was a good mascot/ moniker. I would hope that a new one is chosen that has a connection to the University or the person of George Washington. For example, I'm not a fan of "hippos."

While I acknowledge the history of genocide, etc. that I believe drives this effort, neither do I think we can erase everything that makes up our history. I guess I see "Colonial" as more a statement of fact than as indicative of oppression. That said, neither would I fight a change. Just don't settle for "Buff and Blue." Forty+ years later and "Buff" still seems odd. But, then I think the Stanford Cardinal is odd, too.

I don't think the moniker is incredibly inclusive or incredibly exclusive.

I can understand the desire to avoid associations with colonialism and oppression, but the GW community needs to be educated about the american revolution and George Washington's role in it. Referring to "colonial times" is not something that I find offensive. The university's moniker should be something to unite people, so if the desire is to change it, it's still GW, so be it. People haven't gotten upset that George Washington had enslaved people at his Mount Vernon estate, but people who object to "the colonails" could be offended that a university is named for someone who owned slaves.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

GW has been an inclusive environment for minorities, women, the LGBT community, and welcomes students from all walks of life, all over the world. We should be proud of what we are and what we stand for. The original American territorial entities were called colonies; and their inhabitants or settlers, who eventually fought to establish a nation independent of Britain, were referred to as colonists. It's a historical term. Of course the term "colonial" and its derivatives have been used in other negative contexts. But demonizing our school's moniker would be a tragic, naive mistake. It has never honored oppression. To the contrary, our moniker honors those who fought for the very freedoms that allow for our current discussions around equality today. History matters. Context matters. I would hate to think that we must now eliminate all words with varying definitions or connotations from our vocabularies. Are we to lead a charge that would eliminate the term "colony" from US history curriculums and replace it with a new term that is perfectly innocuous in our particular moment in time? Is it honest to impose our current standards of language on the people, places and events of centuries past? I think this kind of anachronistic thinking runs counter to everything a great university stands for. It is also the epitome of arrogance. Where is our humility in this? And what is GW if not a bastion of truth? The American story is one of progression. Is it wrong to celebrate that journey forward? When there is no "perfect" nation by today's standards and certainly none with a perfect history? Our nation has been a leader in these endeavors and working to improve our imperfect systems. Cultures change and recalibrate constantly, redefining what is "good" and "right" and "fair" and "just." We should celebrate that we are having these current conversations at the highest levels and creating a new level of awareness. We are striving to be better. We have great cause to celebrate those who made this progress possible. It wasn't easy. Creating this free nation, where we could have these great deliberations. George Washington, an imperfect man in a fledging nation of imperfect people, was nonetheless a warrior for freedom. I'm very proud to have received a graduate degree from a university named for him. I'm proud to root for the Colonials. I will not be proud of an overreaction that overlooks history and context in favor of demonizing that which is worthy of celebration and gratitude. Look around the world. We are very, very fortunate. I thank whatever Gods may be for my opportunity to attend a fine university in a free nation, and for all those who made that possible.

We should be proud of our heritage and the legacy of George Washington

If the moniker is changed for no good reason other than for the sake of change, I will no longer donate to the university and likely stop attending GW sporting events.

Are you radical Leftists setting us up for a University name change from George Washington?

We have to be careful of becoming "revisionists". Does this mean that we have to remove the name George Washington et al, because they had slaves?

Please change to anything else, but especially the "Hippos"

this is dumb

There are too many options for other mascots without the history of this one that are available to not change it. I played for this school for 3 years and rooted for them ever since and in a moment where awareness is extremely high, I would like to be on the right side of things.

The term "colonial" evokes colonialism, which in turn evokes imperialism and genocide. This is a harmful association that does not make GW seem like a welcome place. I do not understand why this is still GW's mascot, in 2020. Change it.

"Colonials" is a term steeped in white violence and supremacy. GW as an institution needs to acknowledge that and move towards a community moniker that acknowledges the lives and value of all our community, especially the BIPOC members of our campus.

Why would any institution agree to keep oppressing its students with something as easy to change as a name when there is a perfectly fine alternative of the hippo?

It would be extremely disrespectful of the founding families of our nation to desecrate this name.

GW is more than a mascot, it's time to do a way with it.

The University should not give in to radical voices who wish to "cancel" images and language that do not meet their arbitrary purity tests. The Colonial is, in my mind, a graphical representation of George Washington and other British settlers who colonized America and ultimately formed a constitutional democracy that was, and still is, the envy of oppressed peoples around the world. Washington and his fellow countrymen and -women were not perfect, but what society is? The University should stand strong and take pride in George Washington's contribution to the formation of our country, his advocacy for the establishment of a national university, and the University's unique location in the federal seat of government.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

All stories are complicated and all history is incomplete. I believe GW could celebrate a different aspect of its history through its mascot. For instance, the legends about hippos in the Potomac are charming. Selecting a new name will engage current students and alumni and will provide something light and positive to think about during a difficult time. I lived through the transition from Bullets to Wizards - despite controversy at the time, most people don't even remember the old name anymore.

The fact that GW is even considering this issue is embarrassing. You have more important things to deal with. Stop being hostage to the feelings of students. GW students need to be challenged and educated and stretched beyond their comfort zone so they can mature and become competent men and women.

You might need to rename the colonials, but keep the mascot of George to reflect his true spirit while discussing the flaws of his past with slavery. For sure, I can't wear GW gear in Malaysia because nobody wants to be seen as a colonialist supporter. It is clear that there is a compelling case to remove the moniker. I am glad this debate has occurred while maintaining freedom of thought and speech and the university tradition of vibrant academic critique and discussion. At the end however, the moniker should be removed.

First of all, thank you for reaching out and for considering the removal the Colonials moniker -- I know it must be an involved process, but I believe it is well worth it and a move in the right direction for the school. I am an alumna of the graduate program for International Education. The word 'colonial' does not instill a sense of school pride for me; instead, it brings to mind real physical occupations and economic exploitations around the globe. My wonderful professors from my time in grad school had us considering the very damage that colonial histories leave on communities. From Native displacement to slave labor, Colonial America was no different. PLEASE -- let's drop the Colonials moniker and replace it with something better, something that reflects the spirit of learning as we dream of a better future -- not a colonial past.

If the name is going to change, I'd recommend Continentals, as General Washington commanded the Continental Army.

I do NOT have EXTREMELY strong feelings about this matter. However, as a general statement, I believe this is one of the very minor points in the current uproar over reference to guilt over our nation's history. Do we really need to try to erase or pretend to make amends for every currently perceived error or sin of the past? I do not think so. I am a Christian, but I don't expect the descendants of the Romans -- whomever they are -- to make amends for feeding the early Christians to wild beasts for entertainment. According to my DNA analysis, I am of 8.5% sub-Saharan African ancestry. But, I am not going to make myself miserable with anger over current racism. I also have Cherokee in my ancestry, as do most Tennesseans, and my sister gets emotionally inflamed any time the name of Andrew Jackson comes up. I do not, because life is too short to waste effort with such anger. So, with respect to "Colonials," please just "get over it" and use my donations for student scholarships or faculty salaries or laboratory facilities or anything other than changing the moniker.

This is so important! Please change it.

"Colonials" as a 4-syllable chant doesn't quite roll off the tongue. I can remember, "Go GeeDub!" more than anything else along the race course for Crew.

I don't think the Colonials moniker was harmful in anyway to my experience at GW and I think that it should stay. However if the Colonials moniker was to change, I would suggest using 'Continentals'. After all GW was the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army as it fought the British to gain freedoms from being colonials. It always struck me that it was a little odd that GWU printed shirts of GW with the moniker 'Colonials' when he is most remembered and revered for fighting for us Americans to no longer be colonials. It would be like printing a T-shirt of Lenin with a crown or Ghandi with a British flag. It's kinda opposites. While Continentals doesn't have the same ring nor the same brevity, it is only 3 letters longer than Colonials and has the same number of syllables. It is also very similar word overall. I would be supportive of the change of Colonials if it was to Continentals but otherwise it is a second best and has served as a focal point of the community so I would like to keep it over nothing.

Keep the Hippo, we love that mascot!

Can't believe this is even a discussion.

I think there are other terms that can be used to better describe both the spirit of what George Washington and other Americans were fighting for as well as represent an inclusive history. Such examples could be Patriots or Continentals, though I'm sure better ones are available.

I feel a name change not only takes away from the rich history of our country, it also takes away from the rich history of The GW University. I hope we all channel our focus on the goodness.

Take out white supremacy and keep the HIPPOS!



Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

My personal feeling is that on this matter, the Colonials moniker was meant to honor the American Revolutionaries, including George Washington. However, if that understanding is incorrect and the moniker is not appropriate for other reasons, then it should be changed. I note that I was not an athlete but my sister and her friends were so I don't know how student athletes would react since the moniker, in my opinion, is more closely aligned with sports than the student population generally. But I was also only a grad student at GW so maybe I would feel more strongly about the moniker if I were an undergrad student.

While we need to understand our institutional history, it would be wrong to erase and/or try to forget it.

It should go. It is not defensible.

Keep the name

Who would be in favor of keeping the Colonials moniker? It is not even representative of pride for our country, as it is not something that modern-day Americans can relate to.

We are not correcting anything by attempting to remove pieces of our identity and past, move forward.

I was very involved with the spirit program, having played for the pep band (Colonial Brass) all four years and continue to be involved as an active alumni with the program. I have also been a basketball season ticket holder for men's and women's basketball since graduating. I don't come for the name, I come because of the connections I made while attending GWU and will continue to do so should the university decide to change the name.

Good luck in resolving this question!

I am of Spanish (European) and Native American racial ancestry. This controversy over the Colonials moniker is borne of a malicious racial animus toward White People and it serves no purpose other than to degrade whites. I oppose it. It's ok to be white.

Any moniker can be looked at from a positive or negative perspective. I like that its gender neutral.

I believe in tradition over knee jerk reaction. For me it's a stretch to find any ill intent or negativity behind the moniker. I can see the point made in the argument over Southern Generals when the south fought on the side of slavery but the Colonials moniker is harmless in my opinion.

It is sad that political correctness has despoiled so much. No matter the outcome of this exercise, the woke crowd isn't finished destroying our ability to communicate by arbitrarily changing the meaning of words.

This was a poorly formatted survey

I guess "Colonials" must somehow be non-inclusive. This surprises me.

Ridiculous. Waste of limited school resources. The big question: WHY should it be changed?

Stop taking funding away from humanities

I wasn't an undergrad at GW so prob it matters more to the undergrad alums even tho i spent more years at GW than i did at my undergrad school. i didn't attend a single sports event and never considered GW a big sports school, but i know how important athletics are to schools, so it's telling a question here in this survey asks about athletics and the moniker, rather than academics and the moniker (insert eye roll here)

I understand the reason the moniker is being re-evaluated. I'm not personally offended by it, but I would not oppose a change. I just don't know what to change it to.

I honestly do not have a preference. It's the concept of colonization as it relates to conquering, exploitation, and decimating native populations. Maybe go with Revolutionaries, Minutemen, ,

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

the Brits, French, Spanish (and others) colonized the new world. Not Americans.

See above

America is a beacon of hope for the world. As colonials we broke away from tyranny and were willing to risk it all against a world power for the ideal of freedom.

I'm in favor of keeping the name. If you do change it, I'd like to see it stay within the same vane of George Washington. Not some random animal (unless it's a hippo).

I think the Colonials moniker is a bit outdated, especially given the current political climate and various movements ongoing in the US

The colonials moniker is racist, imperialist, and harmful to our entire GW community. It needs to go. We've been informally using the hippo as our mascot for years, we have alternative right in front of our faces, making the switch literally could not be easier.

Time for this much needed change

I specifically avoided buying any swag while attending because of the moniker and names of buildings/schools.

Except for athletes, students at GW generally don't care about sports. It doesn't foster any type of broad, university-wide community the way it does at some schools. Use of the term "colonial" just makes GW look outdated and it's silly to hang on to something that carries no real meaning or sentiment for the majority of GW students and alumni.

Unlike other Universities, we have an obvious answer to what we would replace the colonial moniker to be. The hippo is a fun, interesting, and creative mascot that students ALREADY prefer over the colonials. The reputation of the organization is put at risk to continue with the name of colonials, and perpetuates George Washington Universities' inability to develop any form of school spirit. We need to develop our own unique identity, with a unique mascot and unique culture - one that is not solely defined by a white man.

The term "Colonials" has no negative connotations to me. It suggests people who are pioneers, looking to make new homes. History shows Colonists were responsible for many bad acts, avarice & long-term negative policies, particularly against First Americans & African peoples. But also a tremendous amount of good was accomplished by Colonials that endures. "Colonials" suggests a group of people desiring independence, economic & political, and a willingness to work together to progress.

It would make a strong statement for the university to consider changing the Colonials moniker given the current societal climate and need for racial and social justice and equality

We can do better.

The term Colonials isn't consistent with our marketing. There is confusion among the student body, is our mascot George, is it a random colonial, it is a hippo (I vote hippo)? For a school so obsessed with its messaging and its brand why don't we move away from this inconsistency and come up with a better name that is actually something fun to rally behind.

I don't think the school loses anything by removing the moniker. A wonderful question is what to replace it with that has substance. Is "patriots" okay for instance? Should a moniker have substance or should it just be fun (here come the Hippos!)? These are powerful conversations that I hope are happening in the classrooms at GWU.

The moniker was adopted as a tribute to the Continental Army and the colonists (as they were referred to at the time) who fought for individual liberties as enshrined in the Constitution; in this context it is not a term that glorified the eradication or oppression of native peoples. The censoring of names and traditions is not an answer to every single perceived slight; there is room for education and the application of critical thought.

I think the Colonials Moniker is Dull and uninspiring. It's just there. A brighter change might be nice.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Again, we need to understand that the "Colonials" were soldiers fighting under the direction of George Washington as opposed to generic 'colonists' - some of whom oppressed native peoples. That said, MOST of the systematic oppression of native people was NOT done by colonists during colonial times, but after the U.S. Government was established with a huge piece of the oppression in the first half of the 19th century - Andrew Jackson in 1814, Indian Removal Act of 1830, Trail of Tears in 1838, Indian Reservation System of 1851, etc. NONE of these acts were done by the Colonial Army or colonists.

This survey is "woke" nonsense and a waste of time, insulting and patronizing.

I think the moniker ties the school back to George Washington who, while not perfect, established principles that allowed the US to thrive for over 200 years. The US also is not perfect, but is always evolving and better than the alternatives.

I'm not sure what is offensive about the Colonials moniker. People have been moving around the planet and coming into violent conflict with other people for as long as there have been people. Although there were bad things that colonists did when viewed from today there are also things they did that are inspiring. Celebrating history with the term colonials, understanding the good and the bad, is much better than picking some bland, sterile term to represent the school. Guess we could be the umpteenth Wildcats.

I understand how any name, including "Colonials," will offend someone. My difficulty with the name "Colonials" is that to those who are not students or alumni, it has a nebulous meaning. "Colonials" is difficult to portray as a strong symbol, logo, or cartoon character - and we should not underestimate the public relations impact of a symbol which instantly and favorably identifies GWU and maybe even strongly portrays the values for which GWU stands. So, any change must be done with great care and much thought. The suggested hippopotamus as a symbol has absolutely no relation to the founding of our nation, to George Washington, to the founding colonists, or GWU. If there is to be a change, great consideration is required. This is no easy task (there are no falcons, cougars, eagles or other animals that portray idealistic people fighting for their rights). Selecting the right word and image is a daunting challenge, or it would have been accomplished long ago. Hail to the Buff and Blue!

I am indifferent to this question, as I do not follow sports at GW or elsewhere. With that said, the comparative level of controversy with the moniker "Colonials" seems to pale in comparison with overtly racist monikers such as "the Redskins."

I hope we are not changing the name because of political correctness. I really fear that is what's going on here. If GWU is getting caught up in the fervor that has swept over the country this year and is looking to change the name for the sake of virtue-signaling, then I will be very concerned. I really don't think this is something the campus needs to be worrying about.

I think the term "colonial" in association with the name of George Washington clearly indicates it is referring to the period just before the Revolutionary War -- not to the initial settlements by Europeans in the 1600's. While I strongly support removing honors for those who fought for the preservation of slavery in the Civil War and also of those whose principal "contribution" to society was the institution or preservation of segregation, I do believe we are on the verge of taking this re-naming business too far. We honor George Washington not for the fact that he owned slaves, we honor Christopher Columbus not because of his treatment of indigenous peoples, and we honor Martin Luther King Jr. not because he was a womanizer. If we expect perfection of anyone being honored, there will be nobody to honor. Likewise, if we decide we can't recognize or mention any period in history during which bad things also happened (the colonial era being one), what is left?

I am concerned that the movement to change the moniker is based on a fundamental misunderstanding of the meaning of "Colonials". It is not a celebration of British Colonialism, with its history of oppression and mistreatment of indigenous people of other lands. On the contrary, it represents the opposite notion, and celebrates the fight for freedom from this very same British oppression. We should be proud of this history, and not allow those who misunderstand the moniker to force its removal from our sports teams. As a former basketball player at GW, I always enjoyed the affiliation with the "Colonials", and would be very upset if it is removed from our school for uninformed political reasons.

Thank you for looking for the feedback of interested parties. I support any decision.

Way more important issues at the university to deal with. This is wasted time in my opinion.

We cannot be offended by every piece of history, if we don't remember where we were we cannot acknowledge the progress we have made. We want to erase all the poor choices our ancestors have made, when that is not right. They were not a bad people, they did not understand, and had they been around today I'm sure they would. You would be ripping away a mascot and identity of an entire alumni base who give tons of money to allow students to continue to Raise High. Don't change it. Instead, understand that we are named after the first president of a free country and take pride in that, while not perfect, it is a pretty cool idea.

From a sports perspective, the Colonials moniker hardly evokes fear or even concern among GW's opponents.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

We should not be celebrating the fact that we are colonizers. Even GW's Study Abroad Office instructs us not to wear school merchandise with our moniker abroad.

It's worth dropping. Colonialism as a historical phenomenon is genocidal. It's not something we should celebrate.

Hippos are literally a lethal and aggressive animal and we already use it as a pseudo mascot. The option is right there

really? this is an issue?

Stop catering to people who spend their lives looking for things to be offended by.

Thank you for taking the time and being willing to reflect on GW's practices and procedures.

Cancel culture has gone entirely too far. We're teaching students that it's alright to be offended by everything.

In a study abroad information session, an advisor told us to be sensitive about wearing any "colonials" gear while abroad. This moment felt very telling to me. To refrain from representing this moniker abroad while wearing/chanting it proudly in D.C only confirms that we're aware of its impact but ignoring those at home whom it excludes or offends.

I am torn in this matter AND want to ensure that my beloved GWU is a place of inclusion and higher learning for all who. Please don't change the name of the University. George Washington University is very much a part of my persona and shaped who I am today. Thank you and God bless.

GW's use of Colonial does not indicate defense of colonialism. Our Colonial is the American who rebelled against the British empire, turning colonies into a country. He did so under the leadership of George Washington, who in turn was assisted by young, intelligent, energetic patriots like Alexander Hamilton. Our mascot fought against colonialism, not in defense of it. We at GW can take pride in our namesake's progressive vision for the independent United States. In addition to freeing those enslaved at Mount Vernon in his will, Washington realized slavery was holding the South back. As Joseph Ellis details in his biography, His Excellency, Washington hoped to see Virginia develop economically, shed its plantations, and become more of a Northern state. It is also noteworthy that the will that freed hundreds of people also bequeathed funds for a university in the nation's capital, a project Washington advocated throughout his last decade. While it is understandable that some would find Colonial offensive, this rests on a misinterpretation. Our Colonial fought to create a new country, one that is always capable of correcting its faults, and that remains an inspiration to freedom-loving people around the world.

The Colonials moniker is an embarrassment and it will be even more embarrassing if we go through all this and we keep the moniker. Please - I am begging you to stop embarrassing your alums and remove it.

Please review works by Edward Said and Frantz Fanon, to start with. Thank you.

This is a tricky question, as I can appreciate the intention of the Colonials name. In the end, however, it is clearly a celebration of the concept of colonization, which, despite being a common occurrence in history, still centers around gaining control over indigenous peoples and most often undermining their cultural norms. With this in mind, it is hard to ultimately support the name as a celebratory moniker that rallies all members of any diverse and socioculturally attuned institution.

We should not permit those for whom "colonials" has become a pejorative to impose their redefinition of our great moniker.

My vote is for the Hippos.

There is no need to glorify the history of American colonialism for the sake of a unique mascot.

Colonialism as a practice is not a good thing. However, the people comprising the American colonies were colonials. George Washington was a colonial. Unless the University is planning to change that name as well, with which I vehemently disagree, the mascot is an accurate representation.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Two suggestions: 1 - The GWU Hippos. It's a great symbol, fun, and fits with the university (GW's teeth, the statue on campus, etc). 2 - Alternatively, lean into the Colonials moniker but as a political protest against the continued disenfranchisement of 700,000 Washingtonians. The city is colonized, not in control of its own affairs, and GWU can take a stand against this injustice by throwing its name behind the push for DC Statehood.

The term "Colonial" represents the insensitivity toward oppressed peoples by White Europeans.

I am in favor of keeping the moniker, but am conscious of how that moniker may be interpreted by those (especially international students) who feel the negative impact of colonialism currently. If the moniker was to change, I hope that it would represent how George Washington and others from colonial times upended colonial rule, even though they were colonizers themselves.

I see no need to change the moniker. It means a lot to the athletes who represented GWU

Seriously? Was the first thing I thought when the email for this survey came across. George Washington was the first president of the newly formed USA, which consisted of 13 states that were initially colonies. "Colonials," while not the coolest name (or mascot), is nevertheless appropriate for a team due to the circumstances. I think those raising this "Colonials" issue just need to take a step back, relax, move on and stop being so coddled. Perhaps they should focus their time and energy on more productive and pertinent issues. The fact is that historically there were colonies, they had troops, and they settled in new places. I disagree with changing the moniker because some coddled kid probably had to run to their "safe space" because a colonial was so fear-inducing. The University should probably dedicate its resources to exploring its questionable staff onboarding practices - first was the former Al Qaeda terrorist and giving him a platform to spout his drivel, then there was that dean who is an active BDS supporter and advocate (who I believe is still employed in her position) - as if she can be unbiased and fair, and most recently the case of the woman who claimed to be black, but was actually a white, Jewish woman. What's going on at GW?? The Colonials moniker is what the University chooses to focus on???

Revisionist history and an individual now deciding that they were somehow hurt by the term used to describe the original fighting spirit of our namesake forefather over 200 years ago seems more than a bit specious and disingenuous to this Colonial Alumni. The name of the University is THE George Washington University. Please do not let current climate of political "wokeness" change the long standing, harmless traditions at our prestigious university. Verbal judo to change our nation's history doesn't help to heal any wounds, it simply helps to try and erase the past. It is because we have learned from our shared past that we strive to be the most free and most amazing example of the shining city on a hill.

The name seems pretty benign in context.

GW managed to survive changing its name from Columbian University to The George Washington University in 1904. This wouldn't be nearly as significant of a change. Given that GW has been a pretty progressive institution over the last two centuries, it's probably time for a change to a new mascot.

I would love to see us embrace the Hippo, or brand a little bit more broadly [we could even be the Tricorns!]. George as our mascot is not the most thrilling...and our colors 'buff and blue' as well as 'Colonials' doesn't leave a lot of space for inclusivity.

GW has a wonderful history, enriched by its diverse (cultures, ethnic groups and class). We have a long history of service to the people of the United States. I would prefer a name that reflects the history of our University than a name that harkens back to a group we have little to do with but which excludes so many. Colonialism is nothing to celebrate.

Not a strong feeling. If there is a change, I hope we consider formally adopting the Hippo as our mascot.

GWU is not a "traditions" school. We didn't go there for that college lifestyle, football games, mascots, blah blah. The hippo appeared on campus when I was a student—we all knew it was silly and didn't come from anywhere historical. It's fine! We still raise high the buff. Let's become the Hippos and get rid of that weird angry George Washington while you're at it, bring back happy George.

I am passionate on keeping the moniker. The Colonials under GW, our namesake, were freedom fighters against the oppressive British. We were the Colonists being oppressed by the British colonizers. Thanks for the survey. Colonials rock!! Raise High!! Bart Kogan.

What a strong statement of leadership GWU could make by replacing an offensive and outdated moniker!

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

If you want a mascot that is relevant to George Washington, try the Revolutionaries or the Eagles. Colonials represents the worst of him and makes minority students feel unwelcome at the university. It's a harsh reminder that at the end of the day the university was not built for us and has no intentions to become a place for us.

In the world of COVID and political craziness, this is what the University is focused on? Really? You might as well change the name of the school since GW was a slave owner...might as well change the city and State of Washington as well. There is a point when enough is enough. Redskins, obviously needed to change. Stupid name. GW Colonials...it goes. The American Eagles, that goes as well. I think patriotism, nothing more. 99.999% of America thinks the same thing. We have had the name for 100 years, NOW its an issue? In my 34 year affiliation with the school, this is easily the dumbest and worthless debate. Should it change, I would be done with the school, no contributions, no legacy, nothing. It really would be the final straw for me.

I was not a student-Athlete, but I was a member of the Pep Band, formerly known as "Colonial Brass". I strongly agree that the Colonials moniker should be changed

Gw hippos

While I am in no way offended by the Colonials moniker, in completely frank terms it seems like a stupid and outdated mascot. I would rather have something more creative and/or intimidating when it comes to a mascot or moniker

This would be the first piece of good press GW has had in years, and while removing this and anything else obviously offensive on campus, also remove President LeBlanc, who's done irreparable damage to the university.

Lose that name and you cave in to the flavor of the month, so-called principles and you can also lose my contact info and all future donations. Take a stand GWU.

Colonialism aligns with taking land and establishing a new order when there may have already been an established society. I believe that while we should remember our colonial past, its impacts on indigenous Americans and slaves as products of colonialism should not be celebrated.

Make the hippo the official mascot instead!

Seriously get rid of it you'll have to do it eventually please for the first time in GW history... be on the right side of history. Because when I was at GW I saw so many god damn banners around all the fucking construction sites around campus that said something like "what we make is history". So please, make some fucking history and get rid of the colonials mascot. You're not a sports school and you never will be so best to appeal to the rich smart gays and coke addicted straight white girls that make your school what it is. Go Hippos.

If GW changes "Colonials", which is part of US history, I'll never donate another dollar to the school !!!!!

Find alternative names for the moniker. I believe the GW community is creative and rational enough to make changes when change is needed. Thank you.

Anti-history is anti-everything! History informs the future and enables it to be made better.

When I was considering attending GW I thought the "Colonial" was both a confusing and pretty lame mascot, especially compared to AU's Eagle. I ended up choosing GW because of the financial aid package, but in terms of a welcoming community feeling, I felt that it was lacking compared to other schools and the colonial was definitely part of that. The story about the unofficial hippo mascot was much more interesting to me and something I cared more about, so I chose to pay attention to it over the Colonial mascot. The truth is that GW struggles with community engagement and spirit and the Colonial isn't helping that issue at all, and really only hurts it. Why not be a more inclusive school rather than harkening back to something that is both unrelatable for young students and also actually harmful by perpetuating colonialism and propping up ideas of white supremacy. We are a school that has great opportunities and looks to the future. It's time we did that across the board. Let's make the mascot something we all be proud of!

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Colonization is never something to be proud of or to glorify. The history of colonization is bloody and oppressive, and the "colonials" moniker does not represent the GW student body nor the larger GW community. I think it would be easy and natural to change the GW mascot to the Hippos as it is directly connected to university history and the Hippo has been embraced by the larger GW community already. And if the Committee truly wanted to keep the mascot connected to the era of George Washington's life (an era in which this university did not exist), we could easily become the Revolutionaries. Revolution and the greater notion of fighting in the face of oppressive power structures is something that George Washington fought for and it is something that I believe the GW community continues to fight for today. I believe that mascot title would also work well considering the residents of the District of Columbia are still fighting taxation without representation to this day.

We should not be glorifying colonization in our mascots. The moniker and all associated messaging (i.e. Colonial Invasion) should be retired.

Just don't go too far by changing the name of the university. I am all for inclusion but we can't completely re-write and cover up our nation's history, no matter how imperfect and discriminatory it was/is.

This has always been a strange and awkward moniker/mascot, from its entrenched meaning to the fact that a "colonial" is not a noun at all. If anything it seems like an uncomfortable sidestep of colonist. There are many names available that could allow GWU to honor its DC and George Washington links in ways that are more reflective of the diverse and equitable society I hope the university wants to build. I am open to hearing what alternatives others want to use, as my opinion that the name needs to change is much stronger than my opinion on what the new name should be. Earlier attempts to encourage institutional interest in this issue were ignored during my (recent!) time at the school. This naming is overdue and I hope it will be enthusiastically supported and lead by the Board of Trustees.

I went to GW as a graduate student. I would not have attended GW as an undergrad for many reasons. And I can't see myself enjoying my time as GW as an undergrad if I was shouting Colonials for school pride. Colonials, we all know its place in history and it isn't a positive one. be the change.

I do not see the term Colonials as offensive in this context. The name of the university is George Washington University and George Washington was a colonist. And I know some find George Washington controversial because he owned slaves, We can take this to an extreme, however. Let me provide an example. The Redskins was a controversial name for the Washington, DC football team. I worked on an Indian reservation in New Mexico for 5 years. Guess which team was the most popular - the Washington Redskins, followed by the Cowboys and the Eagles (eagles are sacred in Native American culture). And the most popular baseball teams - the Indians and the Braves. I asked an elder in the tribe why he was wearing a Redskins jersey (it was a Sunday during football season) when so many Native Americans are offended by that. He stated the ones who were offended were those who were ignorant of their culture and white people who meant well, but had no idea what they were talking about. And his perspective is shared by many of the Pueblos in New Mexico and many Navajo communities. Frankly, I don't care if the Washington football team changes its name, but this demonstrates that there are differing perspectives and we can get silly about these things.

Some people need to grow up. If "Colonials" offends them, they don't have enough real problems.

If you change the mascot, please make it the hippo!

Stop trying to rewrite history. Each person should take advantage of the opportunities before them and focus their attention on writing the future, including their personal future.

Stop trying to rewrite history and make up reasons for people to feel aggrieved over absolutely everything. American history needs to be taught and understood, warts and all. Learn from the past; change the future.

I think there are more pressing matters to spend time and resources on than changing our beloved moniker. I believe in upholding the traditions that make our university great. We must not sway ourselves to 'cancel culture.'

Although I have no preference to changing the name, I fully support in changing it if those in the GW community are in favor of it/have strong feelings for a change. I'd rather make the change to be sensitive and inclusive, than hold on to something that is outdated and causes harm to others.

This name sucks. It has always sucked. We were embarrassed by it when we attended GW. We're embarrassed by it now. Surveying a community of largely privileged people about if they're willing to confront their problematic histories in order to do the right thing is even more embarrassing. Stop running surveys, stop convening committees. Change the name.

It should be changed

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I feel that the Colonial name is almost inextricably connected to the name George Washington. I feel that in this case, changing the name from Colonials will create a slippery slope on how we view the name of our university, a name that has a stellar reputation internationally.

Please do not allow the whining of the few, who no doubt mean well but do not understand the past, tradition, and who are seeking a clause celebre with which to define their generation.

I am a grateful alumni, however, the Colonials mascot on top of knowing our highly ranked university is named after a slave-holder bothered me greatly during my master's program. As a graduate assistant, I had a hard time taking on other commitments on top of my coursework, however, as an alumni, I'm happy to give my time to further this initiative. Thank you!

There seems to be a basic misunderstanding around the name-the Colonials were the colonized not the colonizers, who rebelled against British rule and won their freedom. I think those with an issue with the name are misunderstanding our history, and to change the name to accommodate that faulty understanding would be a mistake.

If students are offended then we should change it.

The Cancel Culture has run amok. If we change the moniker, should we then change the University's name? Where does cancelling everything end? We can agree that some of our American history is egregious, but we've evolved and we've learned ... we shouldn't have to erase parts of our history. We can acknowledge the wrong that many of our forefathers did. That's not the same as completely wiping out their memory and taking away the honor they deserve. The word ALTHOUGH can be used in history books; i.e. Although George Washington was a slave owner which is looked down upon at this time, he was a great statesman... Additionally -- changing the moniker is an expensive endeavor and would be an irresponsible use of money. Additionally again -- the word "essential" used in the 4th question is pigeon holing. Surely you could have found a better word to use. "Essential" stands for a have to -- such as grocery stores and dr's offices during the pandemic. And finally, none of the multiple choice questions were written to get the nuance of our feelings and beliefs. They're completely insignificant and can be summarized / analyzed out of context.

I am over 50 and probably not the best demographic to ask about this. I apologize if I sound uncaring or callous, but it seems to me as if we are doing a lot in this country to erase and/or forget about our past. Are we, or were we, a perfect country? Absolutely not. Are we a pretty special place nonetheless? Absolutely. This "Great Experiment" of the United States of America should be evaluated within the context of what was going on in the world at the time, not now. Many women and men of all races, religions, countries of origin, etc. (the "Colonials") made huge sacrifices to establish this Democracy that we live in today. I guess that when I think about the word "Colonials" I don't have a particular demographic (i.e., white male) in mind - I think of it more broadly -- those people who sacrificed a great deal to create this country. If you decide to change the Colonials moniker, I would say "whatever" and roll my eyes -- it honestly isn't that big of a deal to me if it makes other stakeholders feel better or more included. However, if there is any movement afoot to change the name of George Washington University, I honestly will not make one more donation to the school. Again, although many of these "Colonials" were far from perfect, they were special in that they created something truly unique -- the United States of America.

n/a

I mostly just don't really care about the "Colonials" moniker and so believe, if it is causing any member of the community discomfort or harm and/or otherwise reflecting poorly on our commitment to diversity and thoughtful inclusion, why not change it?

Just because colonialism is associated with historic injustices, it doesn't mean that the folks who are classified as colonists or colonials embodied the motivations of those who governed their respective countries. Most just wanted a new life for their families, free from the persecution and warfare in the lands they left behind. Some very well-known colonials risked everything to create a new country in this land, founded on principles of the Enlightenment, and, while ahead of its time, is still a product of imperfect people striving to make something new and better than what existed before it. The legacy of those who risked all so that we might live in a free country today is worth honoring.

Changing it would be ridiculous.

Though a descendant of Colonials, I think this is an inappropriate and insensitive moniker for anything associated with the University. I also think there should be some consideration of changing the name of the University, though I also have some very distant relationship to its namesake. I am surprised that just the mascot change is taking so long and is so controversial. It should be decided quickly from here in the interest of inclusion and respect.. "Heritage" should not have equal or any consideration.

The colonials moniker was entirely irrelevant to my decision to attend GW and had no impact on my experience while a student or after. Just change the moniker, it's not a great mascot regardless of the potential social/historical implications. There aren't any downsides to changing the name; no one has decided to go to GW based on the mascot.



Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Not the biggest deal in the world, but GW Hippos has a nice ring to it.

Find something that is apolitical and move on.

Change the Colonial Moniker to a Hippo - we can rally with that! It's already a huge part of the GW experience, and honestly, there's more of a tie for most of the GW community to the hippo than to George--we're getting pictures with the HIPPO as seniors, not with George.

My understanding of our mascot, who has been there for a long time, well before any alumni came to the school, is a strong symbol that should not be changed.

These questions were poorly drafted and fail to ask the essential issue at hand: how, and in what specific way, is the nickname offensive? And, what % of respondents supporting a name change are sufficient to compel such an action?

Removing the Colonials name is an over-reach of epic proportions based on a wave of current students who, while well intentioned, can't see past their need to make change even when it isn't necessary because the moniker is not offensive.

I hope you care about your endowment, because my alumni action group are watching your actions very carefully. Not to mince words, but university finances and the financial burden on the students are at our mercy: Do as we say, or kiss our monetary contributions goodbye. - Michael

Unlike other Universities, we have an obvious answer to what we would replace the colonial moniker to be. The hippo is a fun, interesting, and creative mascot that students ALREADY prefer over the colonials. The reputation of the organization is put at risk to continue with the name of colonials, and perpetuates George Washington Universities' inability to develop any form of school spirit. We need to develop our own unique identity, with a unique mascot and unique culture - one that is not solely defined by a white man.

It would be absurd to change the nickname.

The "Colonials" were my college team and the term will always be integral to my college memories. Three generations of my family attended GW, and I would be disappointed if the moniker is changed - it would certainly make me feel less connected to my alma mater. I always believed the moniker was adopted to be in keeping with the theme of the school i.e. the "Hatchet" and the "Cherry Tree" - after all the school is named for George Washington - who was a "colonist"- will the university also be changing its name? How do you reconcile changing the "Colonials" moniker but not the school name? The colonial era was a period of time in American history and the term does not have to be interpreted with negative connotations. Given GW's current financial constraints, I think the cost for re-branding could be better spent on expanding and supporting educational opportunities.

Our university is named after George Washington. It seems fitting that our mascot be connected with his life in some way. If we change our mascot name, what would prevent us from changing the university's name?

Remain ALL of it. GW owned hundred many slaves and there are buildings on campus named after segregationist. I never felt welcomed or safe there. The primary reason I attended was the amount of financial aid awarded to me, GWU literally bought my Black body and used it as a prop for marketing.

History is history. We cannot change history. I am proud of our colonial fathers and mothers.

If the moniker offends some people and makes them feel disenfranchised then I say, find something more inclusive and unifying.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

The Colonials moniker did not influence my decision to come to GW. In fact, throughout my time at GW, it was the Hippo that made me proud to go to GW. I absolutely loved the memories I made at my federal work study job getting to be GW Hippos. I loved embracing a moniker that included everyone, doesn't take itself too seriously yet is also a fierce moniker if you delve deeper into the animal itself. GW need to remain a dynamic institution, not a static one. Changing with our new understanding and context behind images is part of what it means to be a lasting bulwark. GW did not last 200 years staying the 'Columbia College' when we were just a few block wide in the U Street neighborhood. We changed, grew, allowed black/brown students to apply and attend GW, we expanded our program offerings to include STEM and Fine Arts. Why are we struggling to change in a positive direction? What is the real issue with changing the moniker to the Hippo? It was no where mentioned in this survey, but that is what the current students want and are looking for. It is a unique to GW moniker and I fear that this renaming committee is guided by our most vocal alumni and administrators who do not listen to the voices of current students. It's a lot of little things that make a students time at GW important, and while I'm sure the board of trustees or esteemed alumni may think this change is unnecessary or even in poor spirit; know that this change, in the little ways that it will affect students day to day, will mean the world to so many who seek to see their university show a sign that it listens and wants to foster a more inclusive community through action.

Making this change would be an important step in the right direction.

Don't make a decision based on the current climate. It truly is just a word, and trying to judge historical meaning using current "standards" is a never ending exercise in futility. Spend the money being used on these efforts on something worthwhile...like scholarships.

I have no emotional connection to the Colonials moniker. I would imagine that students of native american or african descent probably feel strange being called a "colonial". I think it should be removed.

I just think as an esteemed alumni, it might be time to make a change to the Moniker, as it represents oppression in America

Colonization was a violent action that destroyed native communities. Regardless of intentions, there are historical names for George Washington's followers that have less baggage today. I have no attachment to the Colonials name and feel it should be replaced with something better.

Would depend on the replacement. I don't personally know why colonials is an offensive term, but I may be uneducated. I'm not sure who exactly we're offending with it. What group of people? But I also know that part of being a GW student is being social justice warriors (a title I'm proud and affectionate of generally, not angry about) so it's a very, very GW thing to do to be angry about a word that doesn't offend anyone. So in a sense, it's very on brand for us to do! And I'm not even joking or mad about it honestly. I just hope they replace it with something good!

As an international student i was confused and embarrassed by the colonial moniker especially given that GWU is known for its diversity with international Students and it's large and influential international affairs and political science department

This effort to remove the moniker Colonials is silly.

Perhaps I shouldn't be surprised that the current vociferous "cancel culture" has made the GWU moniker an issue. It's actually quite sad.

I have many decent memories of George, but the mascot of "colonial" is unremarkable for me. In fact, I would often forget that the mascot was the colonial and not the hippo. Embrace the legend and let George take the court with a hippo and promote it from "unofficial" to "fully endorsed" mascot of GWU. Raise high, hippos!

As a veteran myself, I am proud to stand behind the nickname honoring our first Soldiers and the founding of our country.

Americans fought the Revolution specifically to stop being colonists, and become citizens of a democratic republic. Pick a name to reflect a diverse, inclusive free nation of citizens - not one that reflects our pre-Revolutionary status as subjects of a monarch.

I don't so much have a disconnect with the idea of colonials moniker (though now that I think on it...) as that creepy white big GW head on the mascot

I would prefer efforts be spent to truly improve the school (rankings, student and professor recruitment, facilities, job opportunities for graduates, etc.) as opposed to worrying about how to find the least offensive mascots, monikers, building names, etc.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I just don't understand why we would choose a mascot over inclusion. Even the Washington football team changed their name. It shouldn't even be a question.

There is no reason to maintain a mascot that even some people find offensive and divisive. Change the name.

We are at a time in our history in which we are working to make amends and improvements in the way the world works. Changing the moniker is a small gesture to show students, prospective and current, that we do not condone or endorse violence committed against them or their ancestors.

If GW is aiming to be inclusive, it seems prudent to change the moniker used to represent GW.

This term holds a significant negative connotation for a significant portion of the student base and it should not be used to represent the school as a whole.

Personally I don't know any GW alumni who are really passionate about the "colonials" as a term. If changing the name will help make more students and alumni feel comfortable being vocally supportive of their school, I think that's important. I understand the vague association with "colonials" with regards to George Washington, as he was born in the "colonies," and grew up in "colonial america." However, many, many people fought, shed blood, and died under his command for the cause of distinguishing the United States as a COUNTRY, no longer a COLONY OF ENGLAND. There are so many other cool options for team names that much better fit the life and legacy of George Washington.

I appreciate this survey and think that it is a fairly straightforward issue. The moniker "Colonials" relates to imperialism, colonialism, and supremacy and should be removed.

Removing this moniker spurns history and is a disgraceful attempt to cater to a vocal, leftist, minority opinion that has no respect for the principles upon which this nation was founded nor for the Framers who first put those principles into practice. If this moniker were removed, this institution's very namesake, George Washington, will be cast aside as just another "symbol of hate" before too long. That can NEVER be allowed to happen.

Thank you for looking into this.

I feel that it's a good moniker for GW Athletics

While I completely understand wanting to rename some of the buildings on campus due to their namesakes' antiquated beliefs and racist/sexist/homophobic ideologies, I do not think the Colonials moniker needs to be changed. I think a lot of people are confusing the concept of colonization with the period of Colonial America.

Your question was about whether the moniker impacted my decision to attend GW. It didn't in 2007, but it would now. I don't wear any GW any longer with "colonials" on it. It's not something I want as part of my personal brand.

While I understand many of the reasons things have been renamed recently and support these decisions, colonials to me isn't inherently negative. It doesn't evoke the same sentiments as say "redskins" or "aunt jemima."

George Washington was a slave owner as well as colonial and founder of our country. Is the renaming of the university also under discussion?

Thank you for taking action in collecting this data. It will only benefit GWU to take a stance against white supremacy and begin to acknowledge the future.

If the name was changed, I believe it should continue to incorporate something from the historical time period.

I don't think the "colonial" moniker defines GWU or George Washington, the man. He led the Continental Army, in an era of colonialism. GWU can find a better moniker. Today, colonialism should be reevaluated, including the origins of the USA. This issue is no different than that of reframing the meaning of the confederacy during the Civil War. We would not accept a confederate moniker nor should we accept a colonial moniker despite nostalgia for our brand. Please handle this properly and with limited marketing. I would encourage GWU to drop colonial imagery and adopt simple and classic use of "GWU" initials and "George Washington" text followed by search for new moniker and mascot. I proudly say I went to GW, not that I'm a colonial.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I think the origin of the world is rooted in a good place but for some it may be a reminder of an uneven power structure which was created centuries ago and still holds a place in some areas of the world or not too distant past.

It's not up to me. I will agree with the majority of the folks who feel strongly about this moniker. I understand how "Colonials" could draw reference to "colonization" which was a European and Asian movement to take over other countries, especially where indigenous people were the primary population. I also understand that as part of colonization, indigenous people were harmed and killed, enslaved or had their traditional lands taken away. And, during America's colonial period, slavery was introduced and became a "normal economic activity" by those we call "Colonials". If there is passion among students and faculty, and my colleague colleague alumni/ae, then I'm all for finding a more inclusive moniker. It means a lot less to me than other members of the GWU Community's feelings

Unless I've got the meaning wrong- all we're talking about is the English colonies, right? i.e. Colonists, the people who inhabited those colonies. The term should be more offensive to the British than to modern day Americans. I understand the colonies had slaves and were far from an ideal America, but I don't draw that as a strong connection. Undeniable that slavery was a part of the English Colonies, but it's not like we're the GW Confederacy- where their one renowned trait/distinction in history was to fight to keep their slaves. Colonists were making it on their own in the New World and fought against being yoked by a foreign power. Honestly, I think people are going out of their way to be offended on this one. Jumping on the bandwagon of sorts for other institutions/names that truly ARE offensive. BUT, if your study/analysis finds otherwise- then f\*ck it. It's just a name. Let's become the GW Hippos- but then don't send another one of these surveys out about the name offending obese people. Can't please everyone. Especially if everyone's looking for a reason to be offended. Draw the best line you can and own it. Good luck!

"Colonial" obviously means much more than American colonists, and it doesn't make sense to keep an outdated term that both alumni and tuition-paying students don't relate to. Given that GWU has far less school spirit than peer universities, it can only help the administration to provide a more attractive name we can rally behind. And there are many ways to pay homage to America's colonial era. "Patriots", "Revolution" come to mind. Also, looking back to my college experience, the Hippo mascot at Lisner was something we all cherished more than the "Colonials" moniker.

I'm hoping there are people of color on the committee deciding this. As a white person, the colonials moniker never bothered me, I never really thought of it negatively, but if there are people that it offends, to me - there is no question to remove it. I know there is a question of honoring our history. We should honor our history and always in the proper context. The colonials mascot is now what I think of when I look back on my time at GW. It's my friends, and my classes. I'm proud of a university that confront a problematic history and meets the moment. Ultimately I just feel unqualified to decide on those. We must engage our classmate and alumni of color.

This is a great gesture but there has to be more substantive change regarding race relations

George Washington was a slave owner!

I don't feel any connection or affinity for the colonials moniker and I don't believe any of my friends from GW do either. It's probably best to move on from the moniker considering there are many other monikers that could convey "patriotism" which I believe is what is most likely what the founders had in mind.

There are many sports teams across the sports landscape of the United States that should be changed. I do not think Colonials is one of them.

Not sure who pushed for this 'referendum' - perhaps a British exchange student that felt slighted? Maybe we then should be called the rebels? Insurrectionists? Activists? How about the George Washington's like the NFL team in the Washington DC area? Maybe the Foggy Bottoms? How about the Foggies?

Please don't join the ranks of the overly sensitive and unreasonable minority and change the name.

I never had a strong tie to the nickname. If it is offensive - I have no issue changing.

I think that the argument to lose the Colonial moniker is a disservice to our history and our University. FYI - I am a democrat and consider myself liberal and progressive - You can guess by the year of my graduation what was going on in DC at GW and in the nation in the years I was a student. This is the type of issue that puts the vital liberal agenda, which I assume is supporting this nonsense, at risk. This is not about Confederate statues or Confederate flags - next will we excise General Washington from the University name? Intellectuals should be more aware than anyone of the danger of presentism and put this issues in a historical not hysterical context.

The university should remove the Colonials moniker, and simply use our colors as a replacement. GW Buff & Blue has a nice ring to it.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I find the questions included above unfortunate. GW's student body and alums could easily just say that personally they are fine with the term, that it appeals to them, etc. But the greater point is that the term is culturally problematic -- and so it doesn't really matter how privileged white students or alums feel, does it? Time for the University as an institution to LEAD and SHOW RESPECT to the millions of people across the country and the world that have been victimized by colonial systems of oppression.

In do not feel it is appropriate to change the monitor as it is not an offensive teem. Every country has colonials of it's own. Why should ours be changed to make those of other countries happy? They have colonials of their own!

When you look at the negative impacts of colonialism it stands against what I hope GW stands for. I think at best using the title belittles the negative impacts of colonialism and at worst celebrates it. Especially for a school that prides itself on its international student body, I can't imagine being from a place that was colonized and seeing your university try to make that into a fun, theoretically unifying mascot title.

It would be quite disingenuous to change the Colonials moniker while keeping the name "George Washington University."

An alternative could be The Continentals, since George Washington led the Continental Army (not the Colonial Army) and Continentals was one name for people who favored independence from the UK.

To change the name of the mascot creates a disconnect between former and current students. Once a Colonial always a Colonial. Rise high!

The residents of the American colonies were routinely referred to as Colonists during the pre-Revolution period. The American armies were referred to as colonial soldiers lead by our University's name sake George Washington. While the colonial period had some dark moments especially the enslavement of Africans who were imported for that purpose and the persecution of indigenous peoples, I don't know that we erase historical misdeeds by stopping the use of the moniker. I think we should use the moniker as a teachable moment.

The word "colonial" is used in many ways relative to the establishment of the United States. There's very little that provides some cohesion to GW students - the colonial name is one of them and it is entirely relevant and appropriate.

I understand both the original meaning of the moniker and the discomfort some might have with the moniker. I am completely indifferent whether it changes. If it does change, I am partial for a name referencing the hippo/riverhorse statue.

"Colonials" is an inappropriate moniker for any institution

GW has 0 school spirit. Obviously the Colonial moniker is not liked by a majority of students, so taking that into account, as well as the moniker offending many students, why would it not be prudent to switch the name? If the school wants to ensure it has the nation's worst engaged and spirited student-body, then keep on keeping on. You don't have to hire Disney to know that.

I understand the interest in removing the Colonials moniker. I am not terribly upset by the term, but would rather everyone feel safe and included by a name chanted at sports events and emblazoned on campus materials. If changed, however, I would really like to see a connection maintained with the early history of the United States... may I suggest "Revolutionaries?" or something similar?

Will you be trying to rename the school soon?

I think the name has a racist connotation and should be changed, because as an alumni I am not proud to share with others that the word "colonial" is my schools mascot/name chant.

We need to be very careful as a university about changing the name of the moniker and/or names of buildings of our University. We need to keep in mind that it is really unfair to place 21st century morals and values to persons and/or things that were products of their time. It is unfair to them and unfair to us as a community. Some historical perspective and framing are appropriate, but we cannot go down this road of changing names to appeal to a certain segment of the population because they may find it morally reprehensible. Where will we stop? Will this lead to changing the name of our University???? There is nothing offensive about our moniker and it does not insult or humiliate any segment of our university community and/or our overall country.

The liberal left is trying to destroy American history. If you succumb to this I have no choice but to withdraw my endowment to the University.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

This is an utterly made-up issue. It is ridiculous that people would demonize this simple term meant to symbolize the people that founded our country. I don't have the stomach to find offense in every little thing done or named before 2020. End student fragility!!!!

I am lightly in favor. I would be okay with it being replaced if the new name is not awful.

If GW wants to honor the ideals of the American Revolution, there are other ways to do so without using words such as "colonial" that exclude populations and further glorify acts of oppression and theft. It contributes to the false narrative of American history that was built on dishonesty and lies.

While not personally offended, I am respectful that there are those who are offended. The Colonials moniker never mattered to me, we could have been the Hippos or any other moniker - as long as it relates to George Washington or the university.

Glorifying/identifying ourselves with colonization and colonists is probably not the optimal way to represent ourselves.

GWU can meet this movement, now is the time to change and for GW to be a progressive and forward-thinking institution that

I would have appreciated a run-down of the reasons in opposition to the term "Colonials" because I don't understand the issue.

The moniker is an embarrassment to the school. We allege to be inclusive, including to our many international students and faculty members...however, how can we be an inclusive space when our school moniker refers to a period of time that oppressed many people. We don't live in a bubble in which colonials only refers to the American founding fathers (which also comes with many layers of inappropriateness) but to a very traumatic history.

GW was a slave owner but not all of the Continental soldiers were. Are we having the right conversation?

Settlers came from a variety of social and religious groups, including adventurers, farmers, indentured servants, tradesmen, and a few from the aristocracy. Everyone was a Colonial.

If the Colonials moniker is offensive to some I am all for changing it

This is complete waste of everyone's time and energy. Put that energy to use to reopen the campus.

Being a mid-career alumnus, changing the moniker would have zero effect on my giving to the university. It's not a strong attachment for me.

Renaming everything can go too far; the US was previously a bunch of colonies, he did lead the revolutionary war to end that status..... Yes, there were indigenous people here first. I don't see a change as necessary but I'm fine with it if need be. I care more about GW's education than its mascot/moniker.

I would be interested in hearing alternatives but understand that if "Colonials" is dropped that I feel that my memorable experiences at GWU will have been diluted. I have experienced a similar change with my high school and it has lessened my attachment.

Political correctness has gone to the level of absurdity. It is time to stop the madness. To those who have a problem with Colonials - tell them "I'm offended that you're offended"

Colonials at GW is representative of the GE community. It is not a direct representation of every element of day-to-day life activity, good or bad, that existed during the times of the founding of the country. If you are looking to represent the community of GW today, continue to invest in the ways individuals and their unique interests can be celebrated.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I love the Colonials moniker and think that is perfectly acceptable and appropriate given that I chose to attend The George Washington University. George Washington was certainly a colonial and I'll go as far as to assume that he took pride in his involvement in separating the US from British colonial rule. I don't think that any of the American colonists in the 18th century would be offended that we refer to them as colonists or colonials, since that's exactly what they were - individuals residing in Britain's colonies. I understand that perhaps in other countries colonialism is not something that people celebrate, but here it is our national history and the contribution that our Founding Fathers had in developing modern democracy honestly is a bright spot in our otherwise morally complicated past (I get that their version of democracy was only for white, land-owning men - it was the 1700s, that was already quite a step up from monarchial rule). I am a 24-year old woman and consider myself quite liberal and certainly a Democrat (obviously - I went to GW), but I think that changing the Colonials moniker would truly be unfortunate and unnecessary. Please don't let us be the Hippos. I believe the problem some people have with GW being the Colonials is that there are countries where outcomes from colonialism were not as ideal and where discrimination and oppression of colonists was primarily based on racial or ethnic factors and in those countries colonialism is a shameful part of their past. I know that the US went on to be included in this group of colonizers and that the success of the British colonies in the US was at the expense of Native Americans, but the history we are acknowledging with the "Colonial" moniker is from our time as colonists overthrowing British colonial rule, not as colonizers. I think it would be a shame to get rid of the "colonials" because some people either fail or refuse to see the nuance of history. We were the one's being (albeit debatably) oppressed, although certainly not as much as other colonists in other countries. Also, it would be a major waste of money and resources, which are both topics about which GW students passionately voice their displeasure with the University administration. Perhaps an initiative to start a conversation and teach people about George Washington and other colonial's pasts - the good and the bad - would be better suited. UVA has dealt with the whole Thomas Jefferson was a major slave-holder thing pretty well. I don't think they're going to be kicking him to the curb anytime soon. Anyways, that's my opinion - again I usually think along the same lines as the students who are calling for this change, but this is one place where I disagree. We might as well throw out the Constitution while we're at it, since that was written by a bunch of slave holders and therefore can't possibly have any value.

I do not personally feel something from Colonials, there are worse names. But I can see how people would be hurt by this name, especially those coming from places around the world that were colonized and ravaged by European powers. GW also has the perfect mascot name that would set it aside from a lot of schools anyway, the Hippo. Hippos are mean, and would make for an awesome logo.

This is a waste of time. Work on not being in debt

Having GW be the Colonials makes me hesitant to share where I went to school and be proud of my alma mater.

I just don't really understand the need to change the name.

If we remove Colonials, should we no longer be The George Washington University?

If the university wants to be a global brand, it should be with a word that doesn't require understanding the specific and narrow context in which it is used at GW. The word is not special enough to retain when its use outside of the United States has such a negative connotation.

I don't think the Colonials ever had a strong resonance so aside from being politically correct, it may be a time to think of a better name anyway

Political correctness to the extreme, and another example of efforts to rewrite history. Change this "moniker" and you will never get another cent from me.

There are some offensive monikers in college sports, ours isn't one of them. I think it is great that the University is taking a look at this. But it is my hope that in the final analysis they will decide to leave this as-is. Candidly, the Trustees have much bigger issues to address. A President who can't stop offending everyone and who wastes money and hides it from the community. A desire to turn GW into a STEM school and minimize the political related advantages inherent in Foggy Bottom and the seat of government. And the financial crisis created by those factors. This Trustee group has threatened the viability of the school itself. Stop moving deck chairs around the Titanic, fire LeBlanc and keep your eyes on the prize.

I do believe GW was the first president of the US and a revolutionary war hero. Now do we have to change the name of the school as well??

I'm not sure why anyone would consider the term "Colonials" offensive. The name doesn't make much sense, in that George Washington fought to end colonial rule and the university was not created until nearly 50 years after the colonial era ended. It's also not a name that you can rally around for sports. "C'mon, Colonials - Rebel!" Doesn't make much sense. In fact when I took U.S. Political History at GW we were taught that two-thirds of the colonists didn't even support the revolution; most of them weren't heroes. The name is not terribly inclusive, because most people trace their origins in this country to the post-colonial period. So the name has always struck me as a bit odd, but it's not offensive. It's quirky, and I'd like to keep the name for that reason only. If the university wants to promote inclusiveness it should do so by removing racist Cloyd Heck Marvin's name from the student union building and replace it with something else like "the Unity Center." That would be a very positive step.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Don't change it and Don't give in to the PC police

My most prominent memory of being a Colonial is being advised by GW staff and faculty NOT to wear GW Colonials apparel during study abroad. We can parse the meaning and intention of the moniker, but when the material results include instances such as this (as well as the myriad of dissenting testimony from GW community members of color and international origin), the need for change is clear.

George Washington was a colonial. The original settlers of DC were colonials and were a part of the 13 original colonies.

Eliminating the moniker "Colonials" at the insistence of a minority of activist is an over reach. Their opinions should be respected, but not necessarily implemented.

A possible moniker could be the "Colonels".

Perhaps just clarifying the meaning of the Colonials moniker would help

There is NO logical reason for changing/removing the Colonials moniker.

The icons/mascots of George Washington and the Hippo are both acceptable, and in my opinion should stay with the university. I only think the team name of "Colonials" needs to change to something less controversial.

Let's be the GW Hippos. Or the GW Georges. Or any other name y'all can come up with that is not offensive.

Please try not to bend your knee to political correctness. Liberality of thought used to include critical thinking. I would actually be ok with removing the Colonials moniker if I felt it was done other than to conform to the present fashion of hating this country and hating white people.

Colonials is not racist or anything of the sort. Americans were colonials (colonists) and we as an institution shouldn't be silly in trying to identify things that somehow offend some zealots. Let's all be mature about this . Some of the questions were frankly silly eg no prospective student chooses a school because of its so-called moniker

Scary, how far GW's accademic standards have fallen to allow this to actually become an issue

If GWU was named for President Washington, and if he was a colonial by definition, the moniker makes sense. If, however, there is a taint of elitism or wealthy land and slave ownership associated with the label, it makes perfect sense to join the 2020 move away a wealthy landowner class that profited from the sweat and misery of "other people."

This university has many more important things to spend its time and money on than pursuing a mindless and ill-informed campaign to rewrite the history of this country and GWU. Move on.

GW should embrace the opportunity to rebrand. This should be welcomed as an exciting change to remove a term that has no meaning to the school anymore.

It seems straightforward that the Colonials name is at best uncomfortable/not inclusive of and at worst offensive to native students and students who are from countries that were colonized in the past. That those students can fully participate in and all of us can fully take pride in our school seems far more important than any branding or nostalgia. GW and its reputation are strong enough to carry on with a new mascot, but they may suffer if we do not change this moniker now. I fully support removing the Colonials name, and my family and I would be less inclined to donate to GW in the future if this name remains.

It s ridiculous that this is even an issue.

I think education of the community is needed to explain the origin and true meaning of this moniker.

Who cares.



Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

If it's being questioned, it sounds like it's a problem. By the way, it's an awful nickname.

Thanks for considering my input. It's sad that this discussion has even become necessary. No one feels more or less "included" or "safe" because of a mascot. Concepts such as "safety" need to reclaim their ordinary meaning. It's one's intellectual and social engagement at college that makes one feel apart of the campus community.

If you change the moniker, Ill never donate to the university and cease my support of other alumni professionally.

If the Colonials are removed, we should go with "Continental's".

I think this matter should not be considered solely a sports matter, this is not a sporting school and the mascot is regularly used in non-sporting contexts.

There are so many other options for mascot names out there, use the Hippo.

You are wasting your time and effort on a silly matter.

The process of colonizing North America was an essential element in the forging of a new nation, though often it came at the expense of others. Colonials, in my mind, refer to the European peoples who came to inhabit these lands, these British colonies in the New World; it's part of our history. If history were a zero sum game with winners and losers, this would be much simpler, but it is not. Nuance seems to satisfy no one these days, but our nation's history is full of such nuance—good/bad dichotomies, however, seem so much more satisfying in these turbulent times. Should we not also reconsider the university's very name, which honors a slaveholder? Who gets to draw that line?

The mascot is supposed to be fun and something students can get behind. If it bothers us, please change it!

Don't give in to whiney students intent upon judging history through the lens of today.

you are probably going to change it anyways.

I absolutely DO NOT support this evolving "CANCEL CULTURE" movement most recently fueled by the Black Lives Matter (BLM) protests, riots, and looting. Frankly, I am heart broken and disappointed to see one of the Nation's most elite and historically significant academic institutions, responsible for educating an accomplished, international, and diverse corps of alumni worldwide, sacrifice common sense and history on the alter of this current generations' warped progressive sense of political correctness. My choice of GWU and my pride in having successfully earned a Masters in Forensic Science Degree (MFS) in 1978 was not based upon its sports mascot or moniker. It was based on its prestigious international reputation for academic excellence and integrity. I implore you to find the courage and integrity to step up and defend the patriotic and intellectual legacy of GWU!

Even aside from its problematic meaning, it's not really a great mascot

I am in favor of looking at the monuments of history and seeing if they deserve the recognition or if they no longer represent what they were intended for. If the ads outweigh the goods I have no issue with replacing a name or a statue for someone who better represents the institution. On the other hand, I think it's important to think and consider deeply what the meaning is and whether it is hurtful, racist, sexist etc. There's a desire to today to get rid of the bad guys and replace with good guys and the heart is in the right place but sometimes all the work isn't being done to determine whether the issue is valid or not. When it comes to the Colonials, I haven't done a lot of work but my understanding is that this represents the founding of the USA and the founders who (while problematic like most people) did amazing and historically important things. I understand the issue is with the idea of colonizing peoples who didn't ask for it - I see that argument but am not sure it applies here. Which is to say, I don't really know.

Get with the times. The hippo is cuter.

In my opinion there is nothing wrong with the Colonials moniker!

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I assume if you're getting rid of the moniker you also need to get rid of George Washington himself. This repudiation of one of the greatest legacies in the history of human freedom is ignorant and pernicious in the extreme. It is being pushed by a tiny but hyper aggressive faction that would - if allowed - destroy the country itself. Let's draw some limits to the lunacy.

If it were to change it should still pertain the the forefathers and George Washington. It is "The George Washington University" Please do not do something unrelated to the heritage.... I.e. hippo... please don't do that.

GWU has sports? Huh? I hope you didn't cut some poor kids scholarship to pay for all these dumb surveys. The name Colonial isn't offensive to me, but let's be honest, it's a pretty bad mascot. Once you go down this path, however, what's to stop someone from changing the name GWU? GW owned slaves I recall.

I think this whole issue is a joke. Apparently some people are confusing the term "colonial" and "colonialist (i.e., a person who supports the practice of gaining political control over other countries and occupying them with settlers). If this confusion is inadvertent, it suggests that some of the GW community received a less than adequate education in history. If this confusion is deliberate, it suggests that some of the GW community received a less than adequate education in Ethics. There are a lot of issues that the University should be spending its time on that are more important than this embarrassment.

If one is to accept the premise that "Colonials" is inherently racist group, which I do not, you also may be called to address the name of the university, under the premise that the first president was also a slave holder. The school will set its way on a slippery slope to rapid change, in yielding to the "awoke" movement, the movement dejour, which is unbalanced in that it fails to appreciate that all history is educational and should not be subject to subsequent revision. We have seen societies which have done so (for right fascist states), and certainly do not wish to emulate such conduct.

I was uncomfortable with the "colonials" when I attended the university from 1995-1999. It is beyond time to change it.

Why would the monicker change?

Note: I was a graduate student coach in the athletic department

I am 83 years old and started at GWU in 1955. Please do not "mess with" a moniker that has served generations of GWU students and alumni. ESPECIALLY, when we will be celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the founding of the school in 1821. This is not sarcasm or a joke but will the next survey I receive regard changing the name of the University?

Alternative moniker could be "The Revolution"

I don't really care. I think GWU should lower its tuition and be more responsible citizens to Foggy Bottom neighborhood.

I am a white person who grew up in Texas. I have spent most of my life confronting, healing from, and growing out of the racist parts of where I'm from. I will do this work for the rest of my life. We can hold our past and reconcile it, and we can also begin to move forward from it. GW is more than "Colonials" and if that specific word will lead to the crumbling of the university, then all of the talk of the strength of our community and the commitment to our ideals has been, at best, hollow.

I've seen some op-eds strongly against renaming and calling it hypocritical, but also know that some current students find it meaningful to push for change. As a member of the Class of 2000, I really don't have any issue either way, but I do think you should hasten the process and not make a major deal of it. The quieter and quicker the change the better. The hippos, riverhorses are cool and unique names. "Hungry hungry hippos" Or, a nod to George, maybe the Patriots or Trailblazers or even the Independents? Also, we The George Washington still or just George Washington? We should clarify whether we've dropped the article. Beyond a name, we should really be focusing on how to make our University more affordable to all, more accessible to those beyond the student body, and how we can be a force for Liberation and Equity and Justice in the world!

There is nothing offensive about the colonials moniker.

Why has this not already been changed? The term "Colonial" highly problematic at best. It is completely outdated, and its continued use shows GW to be an institution that cannot be bothered to make even the simplest changes to show respect to women and minorities.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Why?????????

If we decide that the name Colonials is no longer the appropriate nickname for our sports teams, how long will it be before we also decide that the name of our University should be changed as well? Did changing the image used for George Washington on our University literature several years ago make attending George Washington University any different than it would have been? Adopting a more "aggressive photo of George Washington" several years ago certainly did not change my image of our University.

If it is changed to something reflective of the Revolution (ie Continentals or Patriots) i would support a change.

I was on the e-board of colonial army for several years and an avid GW sports fan. While the colonials mascot is a little bit silly, I think that changing the moniker and rebranding so much stuff at GW is a costly measure that won't make as much of an impact as say, using that money to give extra funding to MSSC or for financial assistance. I think we are in a very contentious time and everyone is feeling a bit touchy but also wanting to right past wrongs/injustices. But, from my understanding, the colonials moniker isn't celebrating colonization, it's celebrating the freedom from England and liberation from the status of "colony." I think renaming some buildings is a good start but the colonials moniker seems alright to me. I also can't really think of any other, well-fitting mascot. However, it is important now, more than ever, that GW does whatever is in its power to make students of color feel more welcome and comfortable on campus. It is a very tricky situation, and while I think the money could be better spent elsewhere, I am a white woman and am therefore not as aware/sensitive to how this symbol could affect someone's experience at the university.

Be sure to consult Indigenous students and faculty and prioritize their feedback

while I am not personally offended by the moniker, I'm in favor of changing it if it is excluding or offending others

I like the moniker, but I would be fine getting rid of it assuming it wasn't replaced with something stupid.

The moniker is exclusionary and recalls the worst elements of past struggles instead of urging students to band together and forge a better and more hopeful optimistic future.

If GWU uses "The Revolutionaries" rather than "The Colonials" you could even keep a lot of the same costumes and graphic design, and save some money. "Colonials" wasn't even a good moniker to begin with, and every time you use it, you are cherry-picking the "good" / inoffensive part of colonialism while ignoring any damage done here and in other parts of the world.

This effort appears to be an attempt to break our ties to our history. This effort could be end our allegiance to our Constitution and ultimately destroy our republican government.

I don't believe erasing history or pretending it doesn't exist benefits anyone. The US isn't perfect by any means, but its history and representation of George Washington is absolutely foundational. Being in the nation's capital and holding onto such a strong historical tie was a pull for me at GW, and I found later on that Colonial had a strong positive reinforcement with me. While people may not like the name Colonial, the school still provides a welcoming and appropriate place for discussion and reminders of growth. To learn from your past, you don't erase or replace it, you use it and grow from it.

While I individually am not offended by the term, and it has no way negatively impacted any of my memories of or pride for my GW experience, I do believe it is appropriate for the University to closely examine options to remove the moniker and replace it with something new, as it does offend some people and represent a period of history that can still be acknowledged without sustaining it as the term around which our University community identifies itself. Time to evolve.

We all felt more connected to Hippos anyway

I have no strong attachment to the Colonials moniker, so if some part of the GW community feels strongly about changing it, then I support their efforts/feelings.

Although The formation of our country was certainly not perfect , it has laid the foundation for the most diverse country in the world that provides more opportunities than any other. So I don't think we should be ashamed of our country and pretend we can change our history.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I would really like to understand the reasoning behind including "statements" 1, 3, and 4 above in this survey. The dictionary provides varied definitions for "colonial". At GWU, it means a member of a community at a school named after the man who led the "colonial" army that secured our independence and the first President of the US. No one should attend a college because of a moniker or mascot, but monikers and mascots can provide a sense of community and an understanding that one is part of a long and rich legacy. Who did design this survey and select these questions?

I think it would be a huge mistake to remove the Colonials moniker.

I appreciate your outreach to the GW community in making this decision. However, the right thing is always the right thing, and I hope that doing the right thing will outweigh sentimentality, no matter what these results show.

In favor of keeping but not against a potential new moniker (definitely not hippos)

The moniker is highly inappropriate and should be removed. DO BETTER.

If you decide to succumb to the current criminal hordes by re-writing, eliminating and destroying words, actions and ideas that do not overtly have any negative connotations, please discontinue my relationship with GWU.

Hippos would be a nice replacement

I don't think that a "colonial" best represents who a gw student or alumni is. I never felt offended by the moniker, but I also never felt any particular affinity for it. Who are we? With what one symbol can we each identify, collectively? Making the decision to remove a moniker is nothing compared to the choice that follows. What symbol actually represents who we are? It has to be a simple symbol, and also secular - free of national/nationalist bias (a big flaw of our current symbol).

Personally, I thought the name for a mascot was always silly. It never resonated as a "strong" or "fearsome" ideal that mascots are sometimes supposed to have. I fully understand in today's cultural climate why it can have a negative or potentially offensive feel to others. Many of us chose GW for a variety of other reasons outside sport. Yes, there are those that did, but, GW as a name on its own is more known in some ways than the "Colonials" and if it changes and makes more people feel included great. If not, I doubt that will greatly change the institutions reputation for being a strong sports school. Appreciate the discussion though, when I was a student, I don't think the discussion would have happened, so in that sense, its progress.

Anyone expressing the opinion that this nickname is "offensive" is just looking for an excuse to get upset and that is coming from a Bernie supporter who is usually ahead of the curve on this matter. It is disgraceful to even consider this change. It's pretty clear this isn't remotely offensive and a reference to the founding of our nation (which I suppose is a controversial subject at this point in 2020). Don't change the name, you'll never see another dollar from me.

George Washington, who this University was named for fought for this country's independence from the tyranny of the British. The moniker or mascot of this university has been the "colonials". By removing that name, the university does a disservice to our founding fathers. They were not perfect men, but they arrived to make a better place for the people who lived here. We cannot apply 21st century standards to 18th century men. It is not fair to judge them by that. Their contributions to our country and society need to be judged by the society in which they lived. They were principled men who fought for freedoms. If they were alive today, I'm sure they would agree that some of the things that they did would not and are not acceptable. This university stands for learning, education and freedoms of thought and speech. Do not succumb to the cancel culture that has gripped so many other institutions of higher learning. The freedom of thought and speech must be maintained even when those thoughts and speech is abhorrent. Be the shining example that mob mentality does not make change correct.

I can understand why some want this changed, I just hope to avoid a compromise that leaves no one happy (like Syracuse University Orange).

Please change it

GWU purports to be a diverse and inclusive campus. The colonial mascot/moniker does not fit that image and represents a dark history of harm and violence in the United States. I purposefully never bought any GW apparel with the colonial mascot/moniker on it because it made me deeply uncomfortable especially when basketball games were called "Colonial Invasion". I hope this committee will seriously consider continued organizing efforts of students, staff, and faculty and recognize that changing the moniker to a hippo is the right choice to align with GWU's messaging, student body, and community values.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Thank you very much for having this conversation. I will continue to appreciate and support the university whatever the outcome of the mascot review process.

We can do better right and should do better. I was a four-year student athlete and I am an active alumni member. Change the mascot, so we can tell the future students of GW students that in 2020 (even though we were late) we came to better understand the exhausting and damaging legacy of racism and took steps to dismantle it.

Don't erase history. Learn from it.

I think the meaning of "Colonials" depends on context. In some contexts, it could be a reference to oppressors. But in the context here—at a university named after George Washington and with a mascot symbolizing the American revolution—it references our country's first fight to eliminate oppression. I would hesitate to abandon that positive symbol simply because the word would have a negative connotation in other contexts.

None of us are perfect, nor were our nation's heroes. If we apply 2020 standards to them, it is doubtful if any will remain. I think this effort is taking political correctness way too far.

If it ain't broke, don't fix it. Keep the moniker.

Get a new president!

Stick with the colonials moniker.

Spending money on changing the moniker would be a huge mistake and I am completely against doing this. What's next, changing the name of my school?

Please do not allow this brief political moment to dictate our University's view of its past and future. This over reaction / over correction is both politically and financially costly. As an alumnae I am embarrassed by the petty and emotional tone GW has adopted in the matter.

I can understand the sentiment for removal, even if I don't feel offended or affected by the term.

Not that I've been in a position to financially support the university at this point, caving to the cancel culture will guarantee I will not give a dime to the school in the future.

Remove it. I will never donate to GW as long as this remains the mascot in any way.

it would be a terrible disservice to the school to change the moniker. it would be smarter to recruit better athletes

Please stop trying to cancel the past.

If the use of "Colonials" offends some or is associated with the exploitation of some other should be changed

I have been associated with GW since 1967 as player, coach and fan and have never heard one disparaging remark about the Colonials moniker

Recruit young faculty most important!

Don't cave and let the "woke police" ruin a part of American history.

This seems to be much about nothing

The moniker references the colonies, not plantations.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I think the hippos is better than colonials. At least make the moniker somewhat cool, like Revolutionaries rather than Colonials.

Hippo all the way! Seriously, the hippo was a much more important part of my undergrad experience than the colonial moniker.

In context or the origin of the moniker "colonial" for any US citizens that are not native Americans. We are all colonials in the fact that our ancestors originated from other countries. I think too much time & money is spent on matters like this. Those who want to be offended will be by choice.

History is full of imperfections - good and bad come from them. We should not be ashamed of those that formed the foundation of the country. Shame on us - the beneficiaries of their sacrifice for liberty and their early, but imperfect quest for equality. It is curious that we so confident in looking down on those who went before us that we are questioning the use of a moniker referring to those who poured the foundation on which we stand.

I do not quite understand the question about "feeling included". It is a GW team and I am part of GW. Of course, I will support my team. It is a name. I would suggest keeping it as is, stop looking for something to be offended about, and focusing on winning the games instead. GW has rich history and we should keep it, understand it, learn from it, and move on. Stand by the Colonials name. There is nothing to be sorry about, GW never colonized anyone. Students athletes have won and lost games under that name. Keep their legacy. Thank you for considering my feedback on the name. I love my time in GW and I would not want to look back and find nothing resembling what GW I have known anymore.

I don't know what you guys are doing anymore. Just keep wasting everyone's fucking time and money. Great work.

I find it outdated and misrepresentative of the inclusive and progressive student body.

No need to change, I love the name and do not feel like it is right to change the name

Colonials moniker has been trash for years, you all knew this and I hope you finally rid of it.

I believe the school has an opportunity to cultivate a Brand that reflects the best values/and culture of our American story. The colonial moniker has an echo that harkens back to era in the country's history that violently oppressed and enslaved millions of men, women, and children.

An alternate name could be the "Continentials", if the university wants to emphasize the association with fighting for liberty, and avoid the association with colonizing aboriginal peoples.

In history, « Colonials » were the armed European warriors who usurped the land from the native occupants.

I'm generally a politically liberal, morally conservative, libertarian for whom logical consistency is important. The logical conclusion of current efforts will be not just changing the name of the George Washington University, but toppling the Washington Monument and changing the name of the city within the District of Columbia, and renaming the District, since Columbus is also on the (post-)modern hit-list. Is this a reductio ad absurdum?

social justice warriors need to get a real life

Please do not bend to the will of vocal dissenters who want to rewrite history based on current political issues. As an institution of higher learning, it would be disappointing to see GW try to cancel out our own history as Americans.

It's time to change it.

Social justice is a laudable cause, but rewriting history and renaming what is perceived as offensive by radical activists and sensitive and impressionable young people is wrong in this case.

GWU is an inclusive university. If members of our community feel offended by the moniker, that's more upsetting to me than keeping it bc of tradition. I do feel VERY strongly that we cannot minimize George Washington in any way. I'd rather lose Colonials now than fight a renaming of the entire institution. That I will not stand for. If we lose the Colonials moniker please do not simply replace it with Hippos. There is absolutely no affinity for that among alumni and donors in my age group. Let us move to something conceptual like The GW Blue.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

While the colonizers were not perfect - overall, I am proud to be an American and recognize that there are some things that were done in the establishment of our country that are not acceptable. That, however, does not change the fact that the United States is the best place in the world to live and we are in constant pursuit of a more perfect union; Celebrate our amazing history and success and learn from our errors.

This is another attempt to remove our history. I feel that the radical left is trying to turn this country into a third world nation which I will fight strongly. I worked hard as a 32yr navy vet for what I have and do not want to turn it over to those who want "free everything". There agenda will bankrupt the middle class and possibly the nation.

Should be renamed the Hash House Harriers, to honor a diverse group of athletic people gathering to socialize across the world

When some people think of the word colonials, "raping and pillaging" comes to mind. Do we really want that to be our legacy? Is that "raising high"?

I think this cancel culture is rubbish. Young people do not have a clue of our history especially in light of the struggle the early settlers had to through just to get here

I don't view the "Colonials" moniker as offensive as some of the other blatantly offensive sports monikers which demeaned Native Americans or celebrated oppression. If you were to change "Colonials" to "Revolutionaries" for example, would that be better?

I never liked the moniker COLONIALS... even as an undergrad back in the 1980's, I always thought it was an odd / unappealing name. In the vernacular of the American Revolution, one rarely thinks of the settlers as COLONIALS... the more common term was COLONISTS. In any event, in light of the University's association with George Washington, its location in the nation's capital, and the growing backlash to the use of COLONIALS - I'm sure there is a far better, more modern, more appealing moniker to be had.

People should understand the mascot in the historical context of who they were and the values they stood for. George Washington was a quintessential colonial. It is a name ascribed to people of the British colonies who wanted to be independent from the crown and free to rule themselves. It is frankly offensive as an Veteran that this the term Colonial is controversial. It is an already innocuous term for people who fought to win our freedom. And that's real freedom, on our own soil, not some imperial conquest or other controversial use of military forces.

If there is a change, it should be in-line with early America. The Continentals, the Generals, the Yankees. Or just something simple like the Buffs.

I think if GW wants to make a true commitment to inclusion, names and symbols matter, and should be changed and evaluated - you seem to be using a good framework. But it's far more important to examine how GW contributes to the overall phenomenon of students of color being pushed out of college because of lack of support structures (hint: ask the people directly impacted.). Give all the students of color you didn't effectively support a chance to matriculate. Might be different now, but when I was at GW it was a very alienating atmosphere for people who weren't rich and white. Let the students lead you on this — the current generation is well informed on inclusivity.

I would be offended if the school decided to change the moniker

The colonials were vastly more philosophically adept and debated the pros and cons of several systems, before settling on a system that protects individual liberties over tyranny of factions. Conceding your mascot or values to an emotionally unstable, philosophically inferior, tribalist mob would be a regressive, opposing position to what the colonialists would have advocated for.

There is no reason to change the Colonials moniker. I

How about the "Redskins". Just joking

I pass as white (I'm technically mixed-race), so the Colonials moniker did not have a direct affect on my personal experience. That said, I think we can do better because the term inevitably becomes linked with debate over Columbus and/or colonialism, detracting from from Colonial Army he commanded. If we focused on the Continental Army, we would not need to do much in the way of rebranding the mascot. Minutemen, volunteers, or other names that reflect the people he led as the only commander of the Continental Army might be the easiest transition.

If a critical mass of students and alumni are genuinely troubled by the name, of course it should be changed. It would be nice, however, if any new name still made dignified reference to the history of the early republic. Perhaps "Continental" in reference to the soldiers that fought the British under George Washington's command?

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I think it would be a mistake to remove the moniker. There are issues of racial justice that need to be addressed at GW but the moniker is not one of them.

You have got to be kidding me! My input: I believe everyone who has George OR Washington in their name should be required by law to go to court and change their name to something more PC acceptable! Is this all you guys have to do? This is embarrassing for my school to waste time and money prusing sometning meaningless like this.

The colonials overthrew the yoke of their oppressor and as an American I am proud to claim that as part of my history. I think we should honor that achievement and the people who laid the groundwork for this to become one of the greatest countries.

Honestly, this seems like an odd use of everyone's time in a pandemic.

If I am missing the offense to this moniker I wouldn't mind the mascot to change so as long as it reflects positively to George Washington and George Washington University's ethos. I never felt excluded due to this name and am proud to be a GWU alumni.

If we change the moniker, are we also going to change the name of the university? It is my understanding that George Washington was a Colonial, too. I really think that this is a case of political correctness going too far.

Hippos, Washingtonians, Continentals, etc. would all be better options

I studied and/or worked at GW for 7 years. I thought very little about the Colonials moniker and when I did give it a fleeting thought, I admit that I associated the moniker with revolutionaries. Upon examination I see how misguided that association is. Nonetheless, I still believe it is an harmless moniker. If in the end the committee comes to the conclusion that a moniker change is ideal, I hope they will find one to convey a sense of pride when develops having attended both a venerable and esteemed institution. Good luck!

I don't understand the controversy so don't see a need to change.

Keeping the Colonials moniker is more of a risk than losing it at this point. I see no long term (or really even short term) negative effects of changing the moniker to be something more acceptable in 2020 and beyond. The GW Presidents? The GW Hippos? The GW Senators? There are cool, on-brand names we could adopt that would not be as offensive. The way I see it, we will have to change eventually, it's just a matter of when.

I can't believe you are wasting your time with this.

This is a waste of time, money, and resources. Perhaps look at decreasing tuition as opposed to paying staff and professors ridiculous salaries to focus on such petty matters.

It's 2020. The Washington football team is changing their name, teams are removing certain logos and trying to stop certain cheers. It's almost irrelevant what the name actually means. Get yourself some free PR. I couldn't care less about the name, but someone might, and being on the ride side of history is never a bad thing. It'll change eventually. People are becoming disaffected by American history. Do it now, get your free press. Make it a big deal about people submitting names, then do a "oh look, we're down to four" (choose it before then, obviously), and then announce it to big fanfare. Three news bumps, possibly greater message to new students. Anyone who tells you they actually went to GW because of the name of the sports team is lying, they just don't like change. Ignore them. No one will ultimately care about the new one. But being culturally aware raises perceptions even if the name doesn't. THAT is what matters. Get your PR, get out ahead of a problem, and sell a lot bunch of new merchandise. This is a no-brainer, folks. Don't over-complicate this. Get big donors on board first, if you have to. But do it now, before there's a major outside push and it looks like you're playing catch up.

The moniker is a historical reference. Colonials are what the people who settled in / lived in the colonies were called. The time of George Washington involved colonials. They, as a group, should be distinguished from the practice of colonialism. Those people weren't necessarily the westward expanding colonizers, but they were living in colonies. I don't flag the word as offensive. However, it is somewhat stodgy and boring. Therefore, if it is to be changed then let that be not because we're offended or being politically correct, but rather because we are making a good business decision to adopt and replace the names moniker with a different one that appears to have stronger marketing value.



Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I appreciate that GW is taking steps to understand how the university might exclude people of color. I wasn't aware GW used the term Colonials and I was shocked when I found out my first year in graduate school. In my perspective, this is the first step towards becoming a more inclusive institution. During my time at GW, frequently I was the only student of color in my classes. I didn't feel represented or sometimes even understood in my experience as a woman of color.

"Colonials" never has been portrayed by the university or the student body with the negative connotation by which some apparently wish to tarnish this long-standing moniker. It reflects favorably on the school's name and heritage.

To be clear, I never gave much thought to GW sports and, while I never found the term "Colonials" offensive--nor, indeed, can I think of a rational argument as to why someone would--I am indifferent to whether the name itself is retained or discarded. I am, however, worried at the potential harm that could be caused (in a more important context) by the forces pushing for the name change.

While the colonists who founded this country had some appalling views and actions by today's standards, that is not who we are today. WE define what it means to be a GW Colonial in 2020, through our shared values and expectations of one another. The class of 2221 will undoubtedly take offense to some of our beliefs and actions ...and THEY will define what it means to be a GW Colonial in their time.

I feel we should keep the moniker, I am especially strongly AGAINST going to the Hippos moniker because the plaque in front of the Hippo in front of Listner Auditorium is 200% historically FALSE. There were not native or wild Hippo colonies in the Americas, only current one was created by a Columbian Drug Lord's personal zoo which fell into disrepair after he was killed by the Army. HIPPOS are NOT friendly, George Washington's kids could not pet them or rub their noses, Hippos are territorial and untrainable. Annually more humans are killed by Hippos than Crocodiles in Africa. In these times where there is such confusion between lies and truths, FACTS MATTER and GWU should not be in the business of spreading knowingly false history.

I don't personally feel this moniker disparages any group of people and is certainly an extension of the impact of George Washington on this country and its birth

GW Hippos!

I will no longer donate to GW if you change the name. In fact, I will actively campaign against GW and send my kids to Georgetown if you change the name.

I'm a liberal, and this is silly.

I would like to see change where possible to foster an inclusive environment and acknowledge truths of America's past.

"colonials" is a general, embracing term which references all Americans--north and south--from the time before Independence.

If the name is dropped, I'll stop donating. That simple.

At the time of attending, I didn't identify much with the moniker. I know work in public history and know the power of perception, regardless of intent, and how that conflicting intent/perception can come from a place of unintended bias/privilege. I think there's a better term that can get at the ideas or values of GW without referencing colonialism -- a system that's almost always based on exploitation in some way, and frequently includes racism and inequality.

Please don't get rid of the Colonials name.

I believe the 'Colonials' moniker is what you make it to be. If you remove the 'Colonials' moniker, you are saying that there is something wrong with 'Colonials', and thus something wrong with all of GWU, including the tuition paying students and hard working staff. If you keep the 'Colonials' moniker, you make the moniker mean something good, a symbol of the strength, inclusivity, and compassion of all GWU people; because it's our strength, inclusivity, and compassion that allows us to come together as 'Colonials'.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

As a white girl, I wasn't personally or directly "offended" or otherwise turned off by the moniker; however, I do feel it is disrespectful to those whose cultural and ethnic background has been marked by colonialism—either directly on the receiving end of military occupations, or as 'byproducts' of the system (eg. descendants of people trafficked as slaves). This summer's uprisings have accelerated a process that was already in motion, and rightly stressed its urgency. It is time for the George Washington University to acknowledge the fact that its mascot makes members of our community uncomfortable, and takes the necessary steps to address and solve the issue.

If the term is bothersome and excluding members of the community, we must seriously examine our use of it. Is this the image that we want to project? While it may mean one thing to some, it means something else and is having a negative impact to others. Words matter. Empathy Matters. People Matter.

I don't find it offensive. But others do, and that's a good enough reason to change it to something better that unites rather than divides us.

GW refuses to divest from fossil fuels and has stripped the entire GW campus of affordable dining, turning it into an overpriced and untenable food desert for poor and working class students. The LEAST, and I mean the very least, that GW can do at this point is get rid of a dumb, racist mascot that no one ever connected with in the first place. It's an empty and mostly symbolic gesture at this point but one that even GW is capable of making.

This effort is categorically absurd

If not the Colonials, please choose the hippo!

It is embarrassing and sad that such a prestigious institute of higher learning as GWU is even wasting time on this question. The next ludicrous step in this cancel culture will seek to rename the University itself. Please refocus on educating the next generation of leaders and stop wasting time and money on such a ridiculous matter.

I can see how from a very abstract sense someone could be against perpetuating the idea of colonizing as a good thing. But it's pretty clear that the name refers to the American colonies of the British Empire, since we're George Washington University. I wouldn't really be too worried about keeping the name if I were a university administrator, but it's nice to know that feedback is being sought on the matter.

I will not donate to the university until this moniker is changed.

I believe the moniker should be updated to something more in line with the spirit of George Washington. General, Revolutionary, Leader.

I am very happy to hear that the university is considering changing the moniker of the university. It is overdue. As two time alumni of GW, I have refrained from buying insignia that uses the term "colonial" as I find it offensive. I look forward to the day I can wear GW paraphernalia proudly.

It's not a great moniker but I guess options are limited when your mascot is George Washington with a big head

Ask an architect what is the most objective way to look at "colonial". It's a time frame of roughly 100 years (1600s - mid 1700s). Arguably, there were British, French, Dutch and Spanish "colonials". The issue for all of us today is whether or not the term is offensive enough given our DEI lens that it needs to be changed. What is offensive today is not the same as back then. But with hindsight, we can see that some people might have been offended by being called colonials back then (in Latin America that is definitely the case -- some people wanted to be called Spaniards because they identified with Spain and there was discrimination against mestizos). There is also today's legitimate question: George Washington was more than a colonial and he would not have necessarily identified as such himself, as a person, after 1776. It is an interesting thought to me within today's framing of the issue of self-identity. And that can be fluid and always has been. Ask any immigrant family and at some point families stop considering themselves German, Polish, Italian, etc. Again, the "colonial period" was roughly 100 years, that's easily 2 - 3 generations. 1st gen would be "British", 2nd gen might straddle both feeling British and something new, maybe called colonial, etc. Bottom line, the charge of this committee is to see how we feel about the term "Colonial" and its charge is not to suggest alternatives. But it hints at that, should enough respondents feel "negatively" about "Colonials". So, please ask in a future survey by another committee: (a) How many other colleges or universities use the "Colonial" moniker besides Robert Morris and some minor hockey teams? NONE. So "Colonial" is a unique brand and moniker for our university named after George Washington. (b) What else would we use as our moniker, logo, brand? What a drawn-out process to get suggestions and buy-in from all your students, faculty, staff, alumni and other stakeholders. Please do not "cave in" to peer pressure to change our university namesake and moniker. If you decide to change the moniker it better be for better reasons than to avoid "cancel culture".

Dont enable the Progressive idiots. This is a non-issue that you are making an issue.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I believe that this entire issue is nothing but mush headed ultra-Liberal Politically Correct silliness

I love and support the use of the moniker "Revolutionaries" because it represents "the spirit of freedom and ingenuity that marked the founding of the United States of America", in a more non-controversial fashion. The moniker "Revolutionaries" has a strong association with GW himself and can be also very inspiring to all generations past, present and future. Thank you for accepting my input on this matter.

It is absurd to consider changing this name, the name of any building on the GWU campus or the name of the Columbian College or the University itself for reasons of temporal political considerations.

I understand the opposition to the moniker but it wasn't an integral part of my time at GW even remotely. However, I would say that other monikers could potentially boost school spirit since honestly the Colonials is a pretty lame mascot. It's up there with the UPenn Quakers.

Change Colonials to Hippos!

While I do not have a strong preference, I can understand why someone with different experiences would. If that is the case, I would be happy to support those individuals by rallying behind another suitable mascot.

More important to me is the name of the university, George Washington. I believe that the university must never change that name nor remove any statuary or images of George Washington from campus.

There's really no better time than now to make this change. Every day waited, in my view, shows greater indifference to the violent history of the continent and the continued suffering of victims of colonization and their descendants.

Colonials are the American heroes of our past who overcame great adversity to settle this country and form its new government. Of, For, and By the people. These are people who should be celebrated.

Please don't change the name. I'm proud to be a GW Colonial.

As a law student, I did not have much connection to campus life, so the name doesn't mean much to me

This is dumb. Why are you asking to replace what is clearly a racist, oppressive moniker? Do better, GW. Do better.

I am a GW grad with an accounting degree from 1997. I am currently an SVP Finance in the media industry. As I consider myself a reasonable, open minded, but pragmatic person, my own experience is that I would have to go on the internet to even verify the definition of colonials, let alone be offended by it. As I do not see or hear it in active use today as an offensive term, I have a hard time understanding how people could be offended by a term that refers to others over 200 years ago. I appreciate the University doing the right thing and gathering input on the matter, but my vote would strongly be to keep our team name.

I disagree with the University spending any time or resources on this PC matter I'm contacted at least Monthly with something from the University often seeking contributors. If you crater to this PC lunacy, remove me from all future contact.

If we don't draw the line here, you might as well admit there never will be a line and it's all nonsense. Setting this precedent (removing Colonials) would be offensive to those with actual grievances (i.e. Washington Football team's old name).

The Colonials moniker stands for patriotism and freedom. Do NOT give into the cancel culture which wants to erase our history. The first U.S. colonials were brave men and women who desired freedom from tyranny; they represent the term "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Why is this an issue? The school has had a great influence being a third Generation Washingtonian. My brother was born there in 1953. We both attended there for our advanced degrees. He's a Medical School and mine MBA. The effect of creating an issue without merit is of concern to me and my family. My aunt worked in the Admin for over 20 years. There is only an outcry of left wing radicals that want to make something that isn't there. Nothing is needed. Get a grip.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

The university losing sleep over this issue is an utter waste of time. I recommend focusing on issues that impact the actual success of students, including not lying about rankings, ensuring that professors aren't impostors or radicalizing students, and providing students with more resources to do well academically and professionally.

When I was at GW, I'm sure I never gave a second thought to our name. Except I thought the mascot had a weird looking costume.

Any moniker can be found to be offensive to someone, whether actually or invented for attention.

As a white Alumni, I was not felt excluded by this name. However, if students feel that it does not represent them or they find it hurtful, I believe the name should be changed. I recommend the Hippos!

The first Europeans in this country were colonizers. George Washington was a farmer in the colony of Virginia.. He was a "colonial" person. But times change. If the university finds it useful to change the moniker to better relate to the place it wants in the world, it won't change my support. I'll still be a "colonial"

Honestly, I go back and forth about it. I think the people that want to get rid of the name have very valid arguments, especially those people who have been victims of colonizers and saw their people suffer. The only reason I'm hesitant to change is it is because that is just what I know. However, with our secondary unofficial mascot being the hippo (and our proximity to the Potomac River), I would actually be OK with the mascot becoming the River Horse (or something similar).

I don't believe we should change every name with a historic reference but colonialism is not a great cause to rally behind. Even though this use means something different, it sends a signal. It is also, frankly, a rather dull moniker. So that is another reason to consider a change.

I'd name it for whatever native people populated that particular ground before the "colonials" arrive in this country

Surely you have better things to do with your time.

The colonials ties back to who George Washington was and why he perceived the need for a new nation free from oppression. Renaming efforts should be dedicated towards names that blatantly reflect racism such as Marvin Center. It seems like many GW students are confused between "colonial" and "colonist" or "colonizer."

"Colonials" can mean different things to different constituencies. It's nearly impossible to identify a meaningful moniker that conveys the spirit one is trying to project in capturing the history associated w/ George Washington and doesn't marginalize or offend a group at some level, somewhere. I'm not how the school arrived at the "Colonials" moniker and when, but understanding the intent behind the name from those who decided on it would be good place to start.

I think the moniker "Revolutionaries" would be a lot better. In terms of the question about whether I understand the meaning of "Colonials", it was unclear whether that meant what GWU intended it to mean or what I thought it meant. It's a poorly-worded question.

I almost cannot believe the ignorance and intolerance that even led to this being the subject of discussion.

It is unique! Keep it please.

I don't think pandering in an attempt to rewrite history is a valid reason to change the university's moniker.

It's brave and appropriate for GWU to be seriously considering the decision to make such a change. During my time at GW and even now, the Colonial never felt like something I identified with. The Hippo was certainly a more likable mascot.

leave it alone

Who cares. Why not drop the name G.W. and all go home. What an embarrassing waste of time.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

"Colonials" has a strong association with the University name,, but too many syllables for a good team name.

Moniker evokes destruction of Native American lands. Plus it's really out of touch to have an old white dude mascot at events. Please choose something that better embodies where the university strives to be and ask native tribes if they like to be involved with the new moniker. They shouldn't be forced to be involved if they decline.

C'mon. It's 2020. Change the moniker.

I find nothing offensive with this moniker and see no real motivating issue for making a change.

Take away the Colonial moniker, I will end my financial support of GW

I am appalled to hear that George Washington University officials believe that this question needs their attention. It smacks of rank political correctness and pandering to people who should be ignored and told to shut up. For me, GWU officials should be focused on the more important issues of making GWU more accessible to working class students, maintaining high academic standards, and helping graduates find suitable employment. Please have the moral courage to stand up to whining "Snowflakes."

Tradition is important but so is progress and inclusivity. Today's students' opinions seem more important than those of alumni like me.

As a strong progressive, I am very disappointed that this issue seems to stem from a conflation of Colonials, named for the Patriots who fought the revolutionary war, with Colonists. As an institution devoted to education, I would prefer to see GW to clarify the distinction rather than accept that since some poor misunderstand the difference between Colonist and Colonial, that we should just change the name. I think there are much better ways for GW to reflect the progressive values of its stakeholders than semantic games.

If current students, particularly students of color, find the term to be outdated or in some way exclusive, I think it's appropriate to change the name. I would be honored to be associated with a university who took care in their student's feelings on racial justice. Please do not make us the Hippos.....

This is a name that has served GW well for generations, is a good tradition, and there is no reason to change it.

Please keep the Colonials name...

This whole thing seems kind of ridiculous and overly sensitive.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with the moniker. Anyone taking offense is misinterpreting history and needs to find better things to do.

Why in the world change something that has worked well for so long? Is it just to be "woke"? Don't cave to the mob mind.

Pay attention to important matters and this isn't it

I think the "George" mascot is too often conflated with the issue at hand. George's identity and likeness needs to be reinforced once this process is completed, along with the new moniker. Personally, I am a fan of the "GW Revolutionaries"

To be honest I never thought the name 'colonials' was a super strong moniker for a sports team and have no attachment to it whatsoever. GW is a large diverse community full of smart people. We should be able to come up with a better, more inclusive name that will represent our core values moving forward!

This entire exercise is silly and embarrassing.

I haven't thought much about this, but I think it should be changed if there are people who are upset by it

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I love that the moniker means something. It's not an eagle or a bulldog or something completely arbitrary. George Washington was a colonial so the moniker makes complete sense. As a 1993 grad, when I think back on some of my strongest memories, they're of the George Washington mascot running up and down the Smith Center stairs -- back when we had a great basketball team. To me, he was the colonial. Please keep the moniker. If you choose not to, you might as well change the name of the school.

I think it is a waste of time and money that this is even under consideration. This is an arbitrary matter. "Colonials" is not offensive or derogatory.

Hippos is a fine replacement.

This is a huge waste of time. Just get rid of it. If people are offended, then get rid of it.

Why change an image that has become ingrained in the fiber of the university's image. Even suggesting such seems like a pointless waste of time & money. Shouldn't the university be focusing on more important matters like health (time of pandemic) and safety (election/inauguration) for faculty, staff, and students?

This should be a non-issue for anyone who understands not only our national history but the history of this institution. I belong to four minority groups - I am brown-skinned, I am a first generation college student, I am gay, and my family is not wealthy. I am not offended by the moniker. People who are kicking up dust about this issue, respectfully, do not understand this term and are only outraged because it's the "in" thing to do.

Alternate name: The Diplomats The GW Diplomats. Has a nice ring.

I probably will not donate any money to GW until the Colonials moniker is removed. It is an offensive term, and if GW cares about its students of color the university will make this change sooner rather than later.

I am a former staff member of the athletic department and the 'Colonials' moniker was an essential part of my work experience and my opinion of the moniker has changed. Recent events have shown me that we must recognize our past and the things our fore-fathers and mothers have done but also show that our values have changed and evolved over time. GWU represents not only the students staff and faculty but the city of Washington DC and it is vital that the university speak up for the voices of the unheard.

If it offends some change it.

Strong preference for becoming the GW 'Hippos'

It's honestly ridiculous that the school wastes time and resources on this matter. Focus on things that matter, like our plummeting ranking, unaffordable housing, and high tuition.

Hippos. Should have been done a long time ago. This is probably too much but GWU should also change to Foggy Bottom University.

The fact that this is up for discussion reflects very poorly on the GW leadership. The term Colonial harkens to the founding of our nation and should be considered a source of strength given the brave acts it must have taken to travel across the Atlantic and populate the new world in the 1600's. I sincerely hope University leadership can see past caving to the demands of the most sensitive among us, who clearly don't even understand the history of this nation or area. How soon before we change the name of the University for I am certain you can find someone offended by some aspect of his character? A mature point of view would show that all humans are flawed and make mistakes, but that we can still honor someone's accomplishments despite their other failings. For the first time, I am embarrassed to be associated with GW as we should not even be having this discussion. I understand reviewing other nicknames around the country, but anyone offended by Colonial is too far gone to participate in any adult conversation.

You do away with the Colonials moniker and/or remove statutes etc of GW and I will no longer support GWU financially or any other way.

One can't "white wash" history. History can be explained not to justify but to indicate the climate/culture while history is being made. When we know better we do better, and hopefully we all evolve. Man's inhumanity to man will ultimately destroy man!!!

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

The fact of the matter remains that GWU is clinging on to a moniker that was chosen without community input, by a university administrator with a troubled past, and the term itself has been weaponized on campus to further confirm that GWU's interpretation of the term centers around enacting violence and displacing others (see: Colonial Invasion, Colonial Inauguration, Colonial Crossfire). With less than 50 Native or Indigenous identifying students and faculty on campus and with those numbers dropping faster every year, GWU has an opportunity to validate the painful history and settler-state reality Native and Indigenous communities continue to encounter while reaffirming our institution as one where ALL are welcome. On a practical level as well, how can we call ourselves an institution of higher learning while also providing blatant misinformation on George Washington's life and legacy, chief among them his disdain for the term "colonial." While University tradition has been brought up as the main obstacle to any change, as a GW student I was taught to never accept a claim from a government, leader, or institution at face value. Through this skepticism, I was taught, is how we can hold ourselves and our institution accountable without evolving into complacency. I was taught to be constantly questioning the biases, norms, and circumstances to ensure genuine good, not rhetoric, comes from such institutions. Above all, as an Indigenous man who owes so much to my advisors and professors at GWU, I dream of the day when our institution can treat its Native and Indigenous students with dignity and compassion, and with respect to the harsh histories and realities of our communities. As an Indigenous man, I want to be able to talk to my nieces and nephew about my alma mater with pride because its leaders decided to stand on the right side of history. As an Indigenous man, I dream of the day when someone can identify as Native or Indigenous on campus without feeling like a shame to their community and/or family as a "Colonial." As an Indigenous man, I hope future Native students do not feel unsafe, as I often did purely because of how vocal I was in demanding such dignity and compassion from our leaders. As an Indigenous man, I am not asking for special treatment for myself or my Native and Indigenous peers. I am simply asking that respect and decency for ourselves and the generations of antepasados who fought and died for our right as Native students to attend an institution like GWU. We have an absolute right to attend GWU, our GWU community does not have an absolute right to continuing to use polarizing and violence-ridden rhetoric in the name of campus pride.

I believe we will find good and bad in all historical references. By keeping the name we can use it to highlight the benefits while keeping the conversation open to a realistic portrayal of the times.

This was always a strange, poor choice for a mascot and term. Didn't like it back in 2003 and am glad people are coming to their senses and rallying to change it. It should be changed.

I typically keep my opinions to myself, but today I'm feeling froggy... My great, great, grandmother was full-blooded Cherokee Indian. What if I said I was holding today's government accountable for the Trail of Tears and mass killings of the Native American people? Should I start defacing monuments of Andrew Jackson, rally to tear down The Hermitage, and start demanding for things to be renamed because of the mistreatment of my ancestors and Indian Removal tactics? Or believe that I'm entitled to some land because it was stolen from my ancestors? NO, because that sounds ridiculous. Those things in history had absolutely nothing to do with me! I'm disappointed that GWU is playing into the complaints of a few who are using history and turning it into something about themselves. Yes, so much of our history is grotesque and cruel. I even feel ashamed about most of it (I mean, who doesn't?), but I can still find respect for our founding fathers and the adversities they overcame to create a free country for us all. History is just that - history. We can't erase it, but it is a part of us all. We learn from it and understand how to be better human beings and contribute something positive to our society. I highly disagree with treating this issue with kid gloves and pacifying those who are "offended" over using George Washington's Colonials as the university moniker, when that is literally what he was- a colonial. There are MUCH bigger issues happening in our country that we should be concerning ourselves with! And where does the line get drawn? Do we need to shut down Colonial Williamsburg next? Tear down all the historical monuments? Remove all of the "offensive" things from our history museums? Seriously, where does it end? Thank you for letting me rant, even though it likely will bear no effect on the outcome that I unfortunately foresee coming from this.... Go Hippos??

just get rid of the tri-cornered hats

Revolutioner better describes George Washington than a colonial.

Change the name if it bothers people. It's a great chance to sell a ton of new merchandise! I'll definitely go out and buy a new shirt or something if the name is changed to something cool

No one cares about the Colonials as a moniker because its not something easy to rally behind. In addition to it being problematic it's boring and weird and doesn't make for a good mascot. Choose something better.

I think it's completely fine to keep the Colonials. I don't find it offensive or degrading.

As an alum, I'm a big fan and take great pride in GW. The school and the experiences I had there are a large part of my identity. While I am not personally invested in the Colonial moniker, I would only support a change if it is clearly offensive for reasons I am not aware. If that is the case, I have no objection to changing the moniker and, in fact, believe GW should make a change-- under those circumstances.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I like the colonials moniker. Please do not change this. I do not find it offensive in any way. It is important to preserve history. I admire George Washington for the wonderful things he did for our country. The slave trade was not known to be wrong at that time in history. It is not right to make comparisons between today's standards and those of 300 years ago. If the moniker is changed I will no longer be supporting GW financially.

I do not find the term "Colonials" to be offensive. We have a college that was established in 1821. The terms "Colonials" harkens back to our schools history and should not be changed.

I think that coming up with another moniker would be a fresh start for GWU and show that inclusivity matters.

I'm tired of being referred to as the "Colonels" every year by multiple sportscasters and others, and believe the moniker "Colonials" just doesn't have the proper resonance/meaning that it should. It is widely misunderstood and misinterpreted, as reflected by this effort.

The term Colonial is integral to the history and origins of education in the early time of our country.

This nothing more than leftist PC run amok. Silly is most appropriate term I can think of. I AM A PROUD GW COLONIAL ALUMNA.

there are other possibilities for monikers that still connect GWU to their heritage in the region - and those options include names that don't fetishize a negative historical event

I have no strong preference if there is a good alternative moniker and if the current one truly makes others feel excluded or uncomfortable. While I cannot trace my ancestry back to American colonial days, I do not see the term as exclusionary. I also understand the word colonial in an international context is not 100% positive, and there were certainly American colonial-era people who participated in, and benefited from, the slave trade, etc. but the American colonials as a full population and as an army did not stand for slavery or exploitation of any population.

I wouldn't be against becoming the Hippos instead. I associate that mascot just as strongly with my GW experience as I do the Colonial. Also, it's unique and I think of the hippo statue on campus fondly.

Changing the names is really stupid! (To put it as lightly as possible)

Although I don't believe the intention of the "Colonials" moniker was to celebrate colonialism, it is now completely antiquated. In order for GW to continue appealing to younger generations, it must keep up with the changing times which includes a reexamination of American's historical past. Gen Z is the most diverse generation in American's history and we should strive inclusivity. We should choose moniker that celebrates diversity- something we can all celebrate and feel a part of.

Il feel prevalent attitudes may result in the adoption of a silly or embarrassing nickname such as Hippos. Any change, if it happens, should reflect well on the university, its status and reputation.

Times have change and GWU needs to change with them.

This exercise is a total waste of time.

At the end of the day, this name probably needs to go. But I suspect there are deeper issues that GW needs to deal with in terms of diversity, justice, and equity that are more systemic than a name. So go ahead and remove it (or not), but then start the really hard work of actual change.

Remove moniker

Colonials is not an "inclusive" term of past US citizens and can be construed as in 2020 context as highly anachronistic. Let's find a neutral moniker that can elevate GWU School Spirit and show that the University is sensitive to creating positive change.

Changing the colonial moniker, mascot, etc seems (completely) overkill in my opinion.

Focus on actual issues, like our plummeting school ranking instead of distractions like this



Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

GW Hippos should be our moniker.

Ultimately, I think that the reasons for removing/replacing the moniker outweigh those for preserving it, but I'm frankly ambivalent at this point. If it goes, can you please take Trachtenberg's hippo with it?! :)

If this is offensive to even one person, it should be changed. End of story. Listen to the voices who are hurt by the term and focus on healing them + moving forward with something new. GW is GW without its "Colonials." It is now, however, the GW I know if it can't hear these valid critiques — as one of the most politically active campuses in the country — then it is not an alma mater I can continue to support. - Class of 2014

I never considered Colonials to be offensive but I have no special affection or attachment to the moniker.

In all my GWU experience ... pre-student; as a student and as an alumnus I've never heard or thought of the word "Colonials" used as an epithet or meant to be exclusionary or discriminatory. Either I'm uninformed or insensitive or the word does not connote anything "negative" in the American experience.

The people who want to change the name need to learn history... there is nothing wrong with the Colonials moniker, and as a major donor to the school (in the millions), I would be very upset with the idea of a change.

It is an outdated term that highlights the fact that European settlers arrived and appropriated land, often by force, from peoples who had lived in North America for thousands of years.

Why do you need a survey to do what's right?

Although this seems to be a touchy subject depending on whom is asked, I like to think that everything happens for a reason. Without the original colonials, we would not be here having this discussion. Therefore, despite the obvious wrongdoings at the expense of Native Americans as well as other colonies around the globe, I feel that a university as old as GWU should keep the Colonial moniker. Rather than change the moniker, educate on cultural awareness so that despite having the Colonial name, everyone is equal. Changing a name is one thing, but the actions of the staff and the student body is another.

I am a liberal leaning alum all for taking Jeff Davis' name off the highway and renaming Washington's football team, as symbols of outright slavery and racism. Changing the "Colonials" name makes no sense to me. Colonial settlers were not uniformly slaveowners or racists. This country would not exist as it does today without colonies and colonization, with all their goods and ills. In the phrase "The District of Columbia's George Washington University Colonials," "Colonials" is probably the least offensive term on the yardstick of historical reexamination. I have no particular attachment to Colonials, but throwing it out seems like crossing a line into extreme correctness.

This is a ridiculous attempt to strong-arm the language and rewrite history thanks to a loud mob of woke idiots that believe their views are more important than the rest of us.

There has to be a better moniker that represents George Washington.

I am getting sick of perpetual victims that seem to insist on changing anything they deem to be offensive. Until people stop being "victims", they will continue to be a victim.

If people are offended by the term colonials or any of the names of buildings or of the university itself, then they can always attend another university. There should not be any attempt to change the history or heritage of GWU. Any attempt to do so will result in my immediately stopping all donations and gifts to the university!

There should not have to be a survey for input and feedback on this matter. The colonial mascot is racist and lifts up groups who committed genocide and should obviously be changed.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I am disappointed by the fact that GW is considering a switch to the moniker. Years ago, I actually helped to get the moniker for my high school changed from the "Raiders." And, in the years since, I have watched with keen interest as other schools have done the same. In hindsight and based upon this experience, it often becomes quite contentious for a community to try and then land on a new moniker that everyone can agree on/get behind. It also takes years for the divisions to heal between those who favored changing the moniker and those who didn't as well as to re-establish anything resembling the same level of "school spirit." At GW, school spirit is a profound challenge as it is and I worry that this will only decrease the ability/interest of alumni to rally behind something that was essential to the GW experience, at least for some. Further, my observation is that, in his time at GW, President LeBlanc is perceived as only too willing to dismantle the few core experiences that alumni shared (at least in more recent years) to connect themselves back to what it was like to root for our alma mater. He does not yet appear to have firmly connected with alumni outside of those active as leadership volunteers/or within the Beltway so to speak. And, this contemplated action feels very much like something being driven by those living within the beltway.

I don't understand how the Colonials can be perceived as racist or offensive. Keep the name because it symbolizes growth and success, which are the goals of GWU.

It is too small of a matter to to even be on my radar. I attended GW and earned my Master's because GW is or at least was a serious school.

While historical context is important, responding to the issues of the day is even more important. Colonials brings images of racism and violence from our past. Plus, we have many students coming to GW from countries that were colonized by the U.S. It's time for a change.

I love George as the mascot but not partial to the name "colonials"

I find it disappointing that a name change is even being considered. I am not offended by the Colonials name, and find it questionable how it can be offensive in the same way as other monikers (particularly Native American names, which I do understand and support changing). While I can understand why GW is reevaluating the "Colonials" name, I also am against any change to it. The name is general and doesn't, in my opinion, depict any group negatively. If the name is indeed changed, then I would strongly reconsider providing any alumni donations in the future. While I was an undergraduate student, GW rebranded the athletic logo, which I recall was expensive. Years later, it appears that GW has rebranded its athletic logo at least 2 more times. Spending money on rebranding and adopting another logo (and moniker) involves money that should be better spent on something else and seems like a waste of dollars that could be better reallocated somewhere else (such as tuition assistance or student programming).

Whether the Colonials moniker stays or goes, it will not change the wonderful experience I had at GW and how much GW changed and shaped my life! I do hope that GW will continue to examine and challenge the systemic issues that exist at our institution; there is still a lot of work to do to make it GW an inclusive and diverse institution. We can't assume that renaming our mascot will fix these issues - the work must continue outside of and beyond the moniker.

It's time to make a change for inclusivity and recognition of the University's mistakes.

While there are parts of our history here in the U.S. that must be revisited, generic historical names, such as colonials, should not be one of them. With that being said, I have no real concern with a renaming/rebranding, should it occur.

I'm not in favor of praising Hitler or Stalin or people who fought the civil war to preserve the institution of slavery, but when we go through this process of changing historical names not associated with genocide or preserving slavery, we are rewriting history rather than learning from it. We were all "Colonials" until we threw off the yoke of Colonialism which was a good thing. The Spanish were some of the most ruthless colonizers ever. Does that mean we have to change the Spanish names of hundreds of cities and locations in California, the Southwest, Florida and everywhere else? George Washington owned slaves. Does that mean we have to change the name of the University, the Capitol of the United States and Washington State and the County I grew up in in Vermont and everything "Washington" in the country? George Orwell warned us in "1984" that this is all about political power when he famously said: "He who controls the present controls the past and he who controls the past controls the present." He intended his book to be a "not how to" book, but the current name changing movement is using it as a "how to" book.

As a white person of European heritage, I feel this decision is best made by other stakeholders, and I would support whatever decision is made.

While there are obviously parts of the American colonial experience that we should acknowledge were harmful and question the romanticization of, there also have to be components of our history that we can rally around. George Washington and the image of the American colonial as a scrappy group fighting for what they believe in are about as good of things as I could find for us to rally around.

The time, effort and money expended in the endeavor is a waste.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

There is no compelling case for a campaign of renaming, and yielding to the specious arguments in favor of such a campaign now will only invite further initiatives and complaints. There is no principled limit to this drive to purify language and nomenclature, such that giving in at this moment may very well result in a push for purging Washington's name itself in short order. I urge you to resist the current moral panic.

Spend your money on something better like improving student life. This is a joke. Get over yourselves and try not pandering to a highly sensitive and misguided group of people. This university is quickly becoming a joke because of things like this, source: your rising acceptance rates.

Colonials does not mean slave owners, it means a people who inhabited the 13 colonies. Among those inhabitants were slave owners, non-slave owners, slaves and native Americans. They were peoples who fought for independence and for the establishment of the United States of America. George Washington University has the honor to be named after one of the country's founding fathers and the first president of the country. It is also an important honor for the University to recognize the Colonials who fought for the creation of this country. If the university decides to erase history, then it should seriously consider getting out of education all together!!!

Keeping the colonials moniker will continue to demonstrate to students, faculty, and staff that GW is proud of being founded by colonizers. While this is part of our history, and must be acknowledged and taught, it should not under any circumstances be celebrated. The moniker should be retired.

I understand Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, but I also believe in not cancelling our history and culture

That's it

The British colonies are an important and undeniable part of American history. We do not need to be ashamed of this moniker.

This should not be a controversy, but it is also a dumb and forgettable team name. So, if anyone is offended, why not get a better name.

we need to be really careful with this stuff, too much in the moment reaction; not enough introspection

Anyone who finds the Colonials moniker offensive has too much time on their hands and is looking for something to protest.

As a person of color (and to a lesser extent as a woman), this moniker does not feel inclusive to me. First, colonialism is problematic in both the American context and globally. I cannot in good conscience rally behind anything semantically related to colonizers, colonization, and conquest, especially since my African American and Native American ancestors were the victims of such. Second, these groups were not even considered people during the time of the Thirteen Colonies and slavery, let alone Colonials. This moniker feels like a glorification of some people's history, while overlooking the painful history of those who were denied basic human dignity and relegated to mere chattel. Colonials may have won their own independence, but they conveniently overlooked freedom for the slave. Frederick Douglass famously asked, "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" And I ask GW--what to Black Americans is a Colonial? Third, as an institution of higher learning in a capital city that was once majority black, GW should be leading the charge to provide a full and accurate account of this nation's history, our struggle to acknowledge the most painful aspects of that history, and our continuing quest to live up to the democratic ideals in our founding documents. "Colonials" glosses over all of that in a careless, superficial way. While some may argue no one is directly harmed by this moniker, it perpetuates a whitewashed retelling of the past that erases the parts of history we still need to learn from. That "tradition" is far from innocuous. In 2020, maintaining the status quo for its own sake is no longer good enough. We cannot credibly "Raise High" the values of this institution and the nation if we do not have the courage to reckon with our past, acknowledge the myths that prop up a false identity, and sacrifice a comfortable origin story for the hard truth. That's the only way to know what direction in which we must go and the work we must do to get there. Samantha Joy Fay, GSPM '17

This is absolutely ridiculous. We were the \*colonized\* not the colonizers. As an alumna with a lot of Colonials apparel with sentimental value, I'm not going to go out and rebuy sweatshirts, pants, and the hat I bought during CI that I still wear. I'll just donate them and become even further distant from my alma mater that sacrifices the few traditions its alumni hold dear to appease the Woke demands of the current student body — all the while those same students call us nonstop for money, invoking memories of the very traditions they seek to destroy.

Thank you to this task force for putting in the work on this issue. I have always loved the unofficial mascot - the hippo - and hope it is being strongly considered as an option!

I believe that if through the feedback process, GWU receives consistent and important input indicating that the name is offensive or needs to change, then the university should make that change. Times have changed, and it's important for the school to be responsive to those changes.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Older Alumni may not take to whatever the new name is and you may lose big donation dollars. Look to Miami University of Ohio, they changed from the Miami Redskins to the Miami RedHawks and a lot of Alumni stopped donating. Be careful if going with a new name. Hippos is not it.

The thought of changing the colonials moniker is symptomatic of how some have transformed our once great institution of higher education into an institution of higher indoctrination of the liberal left progressive agenda. I am afraid that if the colonials moniker is eliminated, the next thing they will try to do is change the name of our university. Those who would change the name of our moniker are trying to rewrite history to accommodate their own political agenda. This is going into the wrong direction. The efforts of the administration should be to continue to make our university a great institution of higher education, not an institution of higher indoctrination of the political left progressive agenda.

The potential name change is just one more example of the leftist stupidity coming out of GW in recent years. It's no surprise the university has fallen dozens of spots in the national rankings. This entire endeavor is ridiculous and shows that GW is not a place to go for an unbiased education.

Revisionism is nonsense

The university needs to understand that keeping the Colonials moniker just because it has always been there is a terrible argument. Progress cannot happen without change. People who come from backgrounds such as those countries oppressed and ravaged by colonizers may feel uncomfortable and excluded when that title is praised and celebrated across campus. It isolates people and keeps GW from having a truly diverse student body, because most kids come from upper class, white, backgrounds. If you want to live up to your claims of being an international and diverse university, you must understand that it's okay to make sweeping change in the name of progress. In this case, changing Colonials to something better. If the Washington Redskins can change their name, so can you. Maybe try "Revolutionaries" or another less problematic reference to what George Washington sought to achieve in the American Revolution.

Just call us Hippos. Things change, words take different connotations. GW himself did great things but also it's pretty fucked up that he was a slave owner. It's pretty fucked up that this school sits in what was until very recently a majority-black city and had the black student body numbers that it has. I'm a black woman and I got called a gorilla by fellow students. I generally loved my time at GW but am I disappointed by the support from the school for students of color? Of course I am. Ya'll dropped the ball with the Snapchat sorority girls thing. Jessica Krug is an embarrassing nightmare. Cloyd Heck Marvin was a segregationist. Change the names.

I don't believe the US was founded on inherently racist ideas and vehemently reject current attempts to erase or alter our history. Take the cancel culture somewhere else, it has no place at GW.

It's time to update what we can of the GW experience to reflect changing understanding of history and the hurtful connotations associated with these names and mascots.

Colonial means different things to people of different countries. As someone from the US, this never bothered me. But clearly others feel differently. I wish them luck changing history books to the 13 original nation-states and the La Salle Searchers of Already Settled Land.

This is not an instance of a moniker which is blatantly racist (i.e.: St. John's Redmen in the 1990s; North Dakota Fighting Sioux 2000s; or William & Mary "Tribe" with feathers 2000s). It is my opinion that this moniker, when adequately explained and/or provided a different backdrop (e.g.: having the outline of the 13 colonies behind Big George on marketing materials) may lessen the hostility towards the name. In short, it's my opinion that the outrage currently being displayed does not rise to the level requiring a scrapping of the name.

There is no reason whatsoever to change the "Colonials" As alumni of George Washington University, I feel strongly attached to the moniker "Colonials," and own "GW Colonials" clothes. I am proud of being a GW Colonial. Besides, where is this going to stop? On this trajectory, we have to change the name of our university too. Please keep the "colonials" Thank you

Our nation came into being with slave owners and slaves, and our school's namesake was a slave owner. Could we be the "Surveyors" or the "Generals"? Probably. Would it matter? Not to me.

I trust the university to make the best decision to continue to be a forward thinking institution and attract the best talent of students, faculty, and staff. I didn't attend GW for the mascot nor did it matter to me as a student. Do it for the future, not the past. Alumni will support GW whether or not we are Colonials in the future. Revolutionaries? Diplomats? Just don't make the hippo the main mascot if you can keep from it.

For a school that gave little thought to issues of race AT ALL, it is good that this is being discussed. Maybe SJT was on to something with the hippo....

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

We should be the gwu manoush dogs

Getting rid of the Colonials "moniker" would be an example of political correctness run amok.

In my opinion, the connection to President George Washington (and, by association, the term Colonials) is central to the GWU's raison d'etre and provides vitally important direction and purpose to the school and its community. President Washington's vision of creating a University to prepare citizens to participate in leadership roles in this country and in the professional administration of its Government is as important today - arguably more so - than it was then. Again, in my view, the school name and Colonial moniker has less to do with promoting sports teams than the educational mission. Does anyone really believe that Duke or ASU are trying to promote Devils? ...that Notre Dame is trying to perpetuate the stereotype of Irish being rowdy? ...or even that UC Santa Cruz is trying to elevate the image of Banana Slugs? All things considered, it seems to me that GWU should be proud of its heritage, there is more noble meaning behind it than most Universities. Thanks for asking.

Please remember that history needs to be viewed from more than one angle and judged by more than just one standard or minority rule.

In the context of US history and the namesake of the university, the Colonials moniker is seemingly harmless. However, as GW has become more global in its reach, it is necessary to be aware that the term "colonial" holds a lot of negative connotations around the world. While I don't think a name alone can make people feel more included in a community, I do think that it can make people feel excluded. Just as other schools are moving on from monikers that represent a one-sided version of history (i.e. the Ole Miss Rebels) I think GW would benefit in the long run to do the same.

I am in favor of keeping the moniker to transform the word into something positive. I agree that "colonial" can have a very negative connotation, but mostly when using the word as an adjective. I am torn honestly. I support people who feel offended by a word or phrase standing up against that word and educating those of us who do not understand the offensive undertones. I will try to educate myself more on the matter as the word "colonial" applies to so many things. I do not use the "r-word" because I find it offensive. I do not use the "n-word" because I find it offensive. My family is Italian-American so there are many slurs that exist in movies and tv shows that are offensive but not many people use those hurtful words or phrases today. I am intrigued by the results of this discussion.

Please remove the colonials moniker and replace with the Hippo or something more positive.

Yeah maybe we should focus on the cost of a GWU degree. But I suppose all of the students that have to worry about that are too busy working... If this "debate" isn't a textbook case of "overly privileged upper middle class college kids with nothing better to do," then I don't know what is.

The moniker Colonials has never represented anything derogatory or defamatory. Please spend time and effort on more important things like the rising cost of tuition that prevent the "average" wage earner the opportunity to send their children for the opportunity to learn at GW. Spend time on increasing interaction between races, religions and ideologies to further understanding and embracing of differences. Changing the mascot name and bending to the will of a few people that lack common sense and historical lexicon is a shameful waste of resources and time.

The mascot makes sense for a university named after George Washington.

We have other options, and we can still honor our history without using a name that hurts a part of our student body who's families have been immensely harmed by "colonials" throughout history. I don't want a moniker that represents pain and death for my fellow students

I prefer the association with George Washington to remain, I also appreciate the more vintage representation of the GW logo over the attempted modernization to include the obelisk, as it appears more stately/revered. Colonization is a terrible result of the growth of an empire, however, I am unclear on what we would become? I am reading a biography on Washington now, and there is not much to build from, perhaps the revolutionaries would have been better than the colonials? Good Luck.

The name Colonials doesn't need to be changed, but the Marvin Center should be renamed.

This is the dumbest and most epic waste of time to debate the Colonials moniker. The school is being pushed around by overly sensitive, liberal individuals who are incapable of critical thinking and preach tolerance while aggressively and hypocritically seeking to limit free speech. As time has gone on and as I see issues like this crop up, I have started to regret my decision to attend GWU. I wish I had gone to a more traditional, suburban University that had a real sense of community unlike GWU. This is just another issue that exemplifies how much GWU lacks a sense of community.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Our countries past cannot be changed, only accepted and forgiven. When we fail to accept our failures and show ourselves grace in the process we fail to accept the men who built this country regardless of imperfections. Colonials is not a demeaning term/name. It is something we should be proud of. Colonials is not a hinderance to the university, but an opportunity to express the compassion and love we have for our communities and their thoughts. George Washington University will one day be petitioned to change its name to "Washington DC University". Colonials has long since been the name of George Washington University and it need not be changed. The day you change the mascots name is the day the doors fly open to others who want to change the name of a hall, classroom, cafeteria, etc.

Do not give in to the people that want to alter our history!

Rewriting history to reveal the reality of "what was" is a valid effort. Rewriting history according to the whims of the day may be a feel good exercise, but it does nothing to change history. Having said that, I think that the moniker "Colonials" is not a very inspiring term in that it brings to mind no readily identifiable or specific group of any great accomplishment with which one can identify. "Foggy Bottom Frogs" is not much less inspiring, but it has more character.

While it may 'Colonials' may 'mean' different things to different people, it's intended definition should be understood and respected by everyone that is affected by it. It celebrates history, not oppression, and that should be made clear and respected. People can't create their own definitions for terms and then claim injury as a result.

To the extent the monikers make any member of the GW community uncomfortable or excluded, the moniker must be changed. We should be a fully inclusive community.

Colonial does not offend me, and I find it offensive for the University to be discarding it. It is patriotic. It is inspiring. And it goes back into our roots as a people who fought for freedom - against oppression of the British and against taxation without representation. Politically it makes us look like a laughing stock when we discuss getting rid of GW or the Colonial moniker. I just voted for Joe Biden last week. I am not against the progressive woke liberal kids on campus - I just think they are wrong in trying to change this one thing. It's better to focus on real things like high tuition, mental health services, security on campus, excellent teachers, paying living wages, divesting from fossil fuel, and getting rid of Thomas LeBlanc. Colonial is a good name. I have good memories of the basketball team in the 1990s (and GW Band) What would you replace it with? Do not rename GW or Colonials! Go Colonials! Hail to the Buff and Blue!!!!

There is already a hippo on campus, it's been our "unofficial" mascot for years. Seems like an easy choice and transfer to me. Personally I never purchased any "colonial" merchandise because it looked creepy. I do have a few stuffed hippos though!

I appreciate the sensitivity of the GW community to consider this matter.

I have never thought this referred to colonialists who colonized other countries. I always thought it referred to the original group of people who came to America. Yes, they took land from native Americans but they created the country we live in. People are complex. Are the same students advocating for this also telling their parents to sell their homes/land back to native Americans? I appreciate that the administration is considering student demands but it seems students should be prioritizing other issues.

I found more enjoyment in the unofficial Hippos moniker than the Colonial's moniker. Though, I don't know how intimidating a Hippo mascot would be at sport events as am an Alumni of the Law School and wasn't very involved in the undergraduate sporting events.

I honestly was considering not accepting admission to the university because of the Colonial moniker and its association with slavery and discrimination. It should be changed. The university moniker and mascot should be more inclusive. It's also extremely hard to have school spirit especially pertaining to sports without a tangible mascot to stand behind.

I do not think the university needs to change its name, in fact I strongly agree that GWU should stay named George Washington University. However, I can absolutely support changing our mascot to something that does not represent oppression to millions. We can shout "Raise High" & "Go Buff & Blue" to anything!

I was one of the people who signed a recent petition to get rid of the Colonial as a mascot.

If you change it- it is a huge mistake. Don't listen to an uneducated mob and cave to any of their ridiculous ignorant ideas

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I really could not care less about the name of the sports teams, please make the university more affordable for students who do not come from privileged backgrounds and have historically been systematically kept from acquiring generational wealth.

The effort to retire this name strikes me as one of many knee-jerk reactions we've seen lately to any historical narrative which shows any pride in American history. The colonists came for a new life which was not available to them in the Old World and that should be both celebrated and acknowledged as a key factor in the development of what would become the United States. There are those who might object that this diminishes Native Americans whose land colonists occupied, yet when those peoples are honored by team names and mascots there are objections to that too.

If it is changed to anything Hippo related I will never donate another cent.

If you were to make a change, please keep it relevant to George Washington. It's part of our unique story and history. It ties to our flag and to our colors.

I will continue to support GW sports no matter the moniker. As a white alumni, I am not really affected at all. Please lean on those with strong feelings regarding the change.

If it refers to the founding of the country of which Washington DC is the Capital, it should remain. However if this name is offensive to a group of people then it should be changed.

If it's just a name, then I don't much care one way or the other. I suppose the problem for me only is apparent when you look at the school colors, i.e., buff and blue, with buff being the color of a colonial. The idea that it is represented by someone who is white is problematic, but if the idea of a colonial includes anyone who migrated to America, then so be it. I suppose it would exclude the native people, but if you can't have a mascot of an Indian, because it is offensive as cultural appropriation, then why can't we choose to have a mascot that is from the nation's history? I suppose I don't much care of the overall dispute, because while I can appreciate that it represents a reminder of to native peoples that we invaded and stole their land, to remove the mascot whitewashes the history even more and forgoes any discussion it may engender in the future. But at the end of the day, I don't really care.

I believe the erasure of the Colonials moniker would serve as an erasure of American history and why the university is named after the first president of the United States.

While the meaning behind it could very well be that we were colonies and George Washington fought for us to become states, those colonies led to the wholesale murder of millions of native Americans. Plus, the Revolutionaries is a far better name for the team.

Please don't choose the hippo.

Don't forget the history. Current political atmosphere is so similar to the cultural revolution in China.

I think it's problematic to assert the Colonials name as upsetting, inciting unrest, inappropriate, unreflective of today's values, or many of the other descriptions I have seen that has prompted this controversy. Caving into unfounded public outrage like this would lead to a mess of "litigation" in the court of public opinion about any historically significant name, event, etc. As a scholarly institution, GW should have the wherewithal to understand no history is perfect, or in other words unquestionably ethically perfect. However in today's world, we have resigned ourselves to inciting and indulging outrage over history through the lens of racial transgression of modern Western societies. It seems this is why the Colonials name is being called into question as opposed to that of the Michigan State Spartans, San Diego State Aztecs, USC Trojans, etc. whose historical counterparts committed acts of colonization, enslavement, human sacrifice, and many other ethically questionable acts. It seems inappropriate to apply levels of morality based upon a predetermined reading of history. All actors throughout history were imperfect and by vilifying according to a specific narrative seems to only be possible by shedding academic integrity. The real danger would be in if we as a community and society accepted this logic. By taking the logic recommending the change of the Colonials name to its logical conclusion, we would either redefine ethics with racial transgression as the preeminent offense or objectively hold this standard for all history, effectively nullifying all of history as bad history. Either of these outcomes seems worrisome and is not something I would hope my alma mater would entertain.

Seriously? I can't believe that money is being wasted on this.

While I understand the perspective of those opposed to the moniker, there are far more important issues for which to devote one's time.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

TRADITION !!!! tHE HISTORY OF THE 'COLONIAL' REPRESENTING GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY. i SUSPECT THIS IS THE OPINION OF MOST OF MY 'ANCIENT' CLASSMATES.

We need to reckon with the fact that our founding fathers weren't universally great (George Washington owned slaves and had a set of dentures made from their teeth). I think part of that reckoning is realizing that "Colonials" is exclusionary and problematic to some members of the GW community. Continuing to defend it comes across as tone deaf and insensitive.

glad you asked

If this evaluation is motivated solely by a need to be politically correct, then keep the moniker. If it is motivated by a belief that the moniker is no longer relevant or that it is difficult to drum up enthusiasm for the sports teams when using that name, that is a different issue.

With apologies to the professional soccer team, the moniker could be "Revolution" or "Revolutionaries." Other terms that related to George Washington's life and accomplishments don't play as well, or they are already taken (e.g., Masons, Americans, Slaveholders, Masters of Retreat, Suppressors of Whiskey Rebellion, Neo-Colonials)

I never thought it was a great mascot, hippo would be much better. Aside from it being hard to rally behind, it puts emphasis on a part of our history that we should be less excited to highlight. Personally, I don't have a strong reaction to it but I understand why others do.

There are many teams I could never support based on their mascot or nickname. Native American imagery, blue devils, most birds are some examples. River horse/hippo/etc. was good fun but too silly to be "official." Whatever happens, don't let people vote. The school markets itself however it wants, and the voting happens afterward, at the bookstore apparel section, at the admissions office, etc.

Go Hippos! Much better nickname, more inclusive.

This left wing BS sucks

We should be proud of the people who formed this nation, and literally went to war in Revolution to overthrow their affiliation with those who practiced colonialism or colonization. I would be ok with changing to something like Revolutionaries or Continentals, but do not think that is necessary.

Please do not cave the a loud by vocal minority. Keep the Colonials moniker!

political correctness run amok to consider a name change

This is taking it too far. This isn't about racism.

I do not think "Colonials" carries a racial connotation in and of itself. Granted that there were few if any minorities in the original 13 colonies and sadly those minorities were generally slaves. That is not good enough reason to change the moniker. It will not change the history. I sincerely hope that minority students are not hurt by this moniker.

The Colonials is an integral part of George Washington, the man and the university. If you are taking this away, you're one step closer to taking George Washington's name off of the university as a whole. Don't do it.

It's quite simply a bad moniker in this day and age. The student population now is much more aware of the atrocities committed by American colonists upon the indigenous population, while also being a more diverse body that includes large amounts of individuals from locations colonized by Europeans. I too, a descendant of Scotch/Irish immigrants, have seen in studying history that colonial rule was tried and tested in Scotland and Ireland by English oppressors. Genocides across the world have been conducted under the guise of colonialism, and I am ashamed that this is our mascot. Just go with the "water horses" and have our mascot be a hippo. Everyone loves the hippo and it's already our unofficial mascot on merchandise at the store.

If you decide to change a simple mascot name I will send my degree back to you so you can shred it. This is a ridiculous waste of time and money as was my masters degree from this institution.



Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Why do so many GWU alums end up doing coups? Whatever.

it goes with "George Washington"

As a proud Puerto Rico-resident, born and raised in the Island - which by the way, to this day technically remains a Colony of the USA, I do not feel that the term "Colonials" triggers neither an emotional nor physical response; and it shouldn't. The colonials' moniker represents a tradition and heritage within GW, that although not my own, is part of the institution's history and I wholeheartedly respect. To obliterate it just to appease a vocal minority, that seems more intent on finding faults than finding common ground, runs counter to the very tenets of an university - to bring diversity into a single place for the purpose of learning and dialogue.

The university should take this opportunity to be a leader on inclusion, respect, and recognition of our troubling past of racism and colonialism that reverberate today. Do not follow San Snyder's model of backwards thinking and foot dragging. Be on the vanguard for positive change.

In this era where we as a society are attempting to be more inclusive, this moniker does not serve GW well. Even if the meaning is misunderstood, the word currently has a negative connotation and does GW no good at all to keep it. Time for a change. Cultural sensitivity matters.

I'm tired of the cancel culture movement.

Our university is named after our first president, George Washington. One of Washington's charges was general of the Continental Army. In lieu of the "Colonial" moniker, I think "Continental" would be a suitable replacement. A similar word with a similar time-period, but more closely related to Washington and early Americans, but without the negative connotation associated with Colonialism.

Given the very poor performance of GW's sports team during my undergraduate years 1977-81, I was never much invested in the moniker Colonials. However, it seemed appropriate, given the name of the University. Since it helped me achieve my goal of joining the Foreign Service, I appreciate the fine education I received at GWU, and I enjoyed alumnus events before the pandemic cut me off.

The argument about the GW Colonial, given the history and context makes no sense and did not require a commission or a survey.

The Colonials moniker embodies the rejection of colonial status as an affront to the principals embodied in the Declaration of Independence. It should not be decarded because of those who are ignorant of history. It was a disparaging term that the colonists embraced as they confronted and defeated English oppression.

It never seemed to be an inspiring name for sports teams. So replace it if you must, I don't think it has much value one way or the other.

It is shameful that the university is even considering changing these names. The handful of people that are pushing to rename do not have the right to not be offended based on their misunderstanding of history.

While not an athlete, I worked for the athletic department and took pride in our school's name, moniker, mascot, and colors. The school history is rich and should be promoted. I personally think the moniker Colonials can pridefully be used in an inclusive way.

Stop trying to re-write the history of America

Y'all are going to get flack either way, but If there's a clear consensus in favor of changing it, listen to your students.

The colonial period is part of our history and tied to George Washington. I don't see a need to change it.

To change the name is to reject our history and the founding of our nation.

This is political correctness at its extreme. Washington Redskins -- sure, scrap it. St. John's Redmen -- agree, an offensive name. But come on, only people looking for a reason to be offended are going to say that "Colonials" is offensive. And by the way, let's get rid of the name of the university while we're at it. George Washington owned slaves after all.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I have always regarded George Washington as the moniker and symbol of GW. "Colonials" struck me as absurd as the school did not exist during the colonial period.

I hope GW will also address the use of Cloyd Heck Marvin's name, since he was a known segregationist and should not be honored by the university.

Higher education institutions should not cower to student mobs who wish to deem anything and everything inappropriate, racist or politically incorrect because they wake up one morning "feeling" offended by it. Today it will be the Colonials mascot, tomorrow it will be the name of the university they demand be removed. After all, George Washington himself the ultimate colonial.

As an Alumni I fell very strongly about this. It disturbs me that the people who want a change seem to be ignorant of what the name Colonials means for this University. My future support (Monetary) for the University will probably end if the moniker changes.

I think it is important to understand the experiences of marginalized peoples, and part of that is being sensitive to matters like this one. Though you may argue that the term "Colonials" is meant to refer to the people who lived in the original 13 American colonies, to many people that term is very different, and very negative, connotations. I am wholeheartedly in favor of changing it.

While I wish that we could keep Colonials, because it ties me to my GW experience and a new name would make me feel dissociated, I know that's not the right choice. We can't pick and choose meanings of words to suit us. If we do change, I very much hope that the new choice will be the Hippos. It would allow for opportunities to create origin legends around Foggy Bottom and bring levity to the process. It could also provide opportunities to, like Disney, create a mascot that allows for marketing in interactive ways like creating Hidden Hippos across campus. The announcement could be a social campaign with Hidden Hippos across the country for alumni to find. As a student in the mid 90s when the hippo statue arrived, it makes me extraordinarily happy to see that students after us continued to embrace the idea of the hippo as much as we did.

I don't see a need to change it. But if you do it isn't a crushing blow. Generals? Here come da general!!! Ask Lin Manuel to help you out :)good luck.

Please don't change us to The Hippos.

Political correctness run amok.

No additional feedback

While I am politically moderate, an independent, and a reasonable centrist, this initiative has the feel of the thought and word police that is going too far. To be clear, if the term was clearly offensive like "Redskins" it would be a different discussion and change would be necessary, but the term Colonial is not in that discussion space. And if Colonial is changed the next logical discussion will be to rename the university given George Washington's complex personal history. This is going too far.

This moniker should be left unchanged.

In my humble opinion, the moniker Colonials can be interpreted as outdated or outright hostile for some. However, I am neither in favor of keeping or removing the moniker. I leave it up to the University to decide on the moniker.

I think it would be best to change the moniker in favor of something more inclusive and indicative of our diverse student body

Seeking feedback about this is good. I wish the administration had done this before deciding on a STEM undergraduate focus.

I don't like the effort to erase history. At one time we were all colonials.

It is a slippery slope to start renaming buildings and monikers as response to pressure of any group. Today, it is names, next it will be professors or curriculum. Don't.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

We can be sober in understanding that the founding of this country was not all roses without reflexively erasing anything that references them. Colonials is a great mascot, please keep it and use education to address whatever dark linings accompany it. This is not a Washington Football Team nor a Cleveland Indians situation.

During my GW experience, Raise High and Buff&Blue were much more meaningful. I rarely used the Colonials moniker to refer to myself as I found it insensitive given my immigrant background. Our mascot is George, not "The Colonial". Given its negative connotation and rare use among the student body, I am a proponent of removing the Colonials moniker and replacing it with something with which GW students can identify comfortably. Thank you!

People need to stop overreacting to totalitarian demands to rename everything. With all of the other issues in the world there are MUCH more important things we should be focused on.

Hippos!!!!

As a descendent of the colonial power, I never really noticed how this term could be offensive to anyone. I completely understand if you come from a country (or descended from one) that was dominated how the term could elicit a bad reaction. Surely, we can find a new moniker, related to George Washington that is more in tune to the university as a whole in 2020, than the one created over a century ago.

This moniker is offensive and must be changed by GW.

Just rebrand it there is an obvious negative connotation

It is wrong to change the name of this mascot. The movement to do so shows ignorance of US history.

I think it's frankly appalling that we're still debating this. "Colonials" should have never been the moniker, or at minimum, it should have been removed years ago. It is offensive and othering, and made me feel unwelcome on the GW campus. I never attended a sporting event in large part because of how uncomfortable it made me feel. If the GW community values inclusion literally at all, it desperately needs to drop the moniker "colonials" and to rename the Marvin center.

Regardless of racial issues, hippos is a better name than colonials.

I understand why the term "colonials" may on the surface be troubling to some, but the context is important. If we are able to reconcile with the fact that our university is named after a former slave owner then I don't see how we can't also accept the truth which is that our nation was founded by a rebellion of colonists. I don't think the name Colonials indicates that the university supports colonization and subjugation of peoples.

It would be a disgrace to change, just because a few individuals want to be in the news

The name is not very offensive to me, but it always struck me as a lame, uninspired and uninspiring moniker. I'd be in favor of changing it for that reason

There are many other things more deserving of time and attention.

Without a very visible and purposeful land acknowledgment and understanding of the power dynamics associated with the history of colonization, I don't see how we can continue to use this name and assume it unites everyone.

With the damaging and destructive effects of colonialism in nearly every non-European country around the world still being felt to this day, having "colonials" as GW's moniker is harmful. As an African American alumna, not only is this term harmful but a major source of shame and embarrassment whenever I discussing having attended GW, and makes me reluctant to discuss my attendance publicly. I'm glad this is being acknowledged and hope the moniker is changed to show a true commitment to an environment that is diverse and welcoming for all to learn.

One of GW's greatest assets is its diversity. The Colonials moniker may once have been something to rally behind, but it's time for GW to update with the times. To keep the Colonial moniker is to knowingly disrespect the diverse student population of the university. There is no way to claim ignorance of the violent history of colonialism. It's time for GW to move forward and create a space that is safe, supportive, and respectful of its former, current, and future student body.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

I understand that GW doesn't view Colonials as a term referring to colonialism explicitly, but more reflective of the colonies and more cutesy for lack of a better word. However, it is time to move on from the innocence being expected of this moniker because it is not innocent.

Operationalize the hippo.

I don't understand what is the source of controversy or the driver for making a change.

I am tired of name changes because people are offended. I am offended that you want to change our moniker. Next they will want to change the name of my university. They are already tearing down GW statutes. Don't think they won't try.

I want to make sure the University is being thoughtful and sensitive and if the name Colonials does not represent the University well and could offend, we should look at changing it.

The Colonials as a mascot moniker didn't make much sense to me. I really didn't "get it".

If GW cares to maintain its reputation as a serious and practical academic institution interested in educating its students in truth and critical thought, DON'T fall into the tempting trap of political correctness-infused virtue signaling

It is today stylish to sweep away markers of the American past that do not fit the current ideals expressed by certain progressive elements of the society. Let today's winds blow away another symbol of what is right about our country, and in fifty, or twenty, or a hundred years, those who care about the contribution of GWU to the American culture will recognize that we turned our backs on a proud symbol of which we should have been proud.

I feel a strong connection to the GW Colonials moniker and something that I am very proud to be a part of as an Alumni of the University. It is classic and timeliness and directly linked with the imagery of George Washington and his times and should endure.

Very difficult to support cancel culture mandates that are not data driven and absent informed American historical knowledge.

This is the time to change the moniker and make a difference in removing racism from this institution.

My thought is that the moniker is meant to evoke feelings related to those in the 13 colonies that fought for independence during the American Revolutionary War (most famously George Washington). I wonder if there is another term like Revolutionaries or Independents that might get at that same sort of feeling.

Maintain a steady hand and methodology on this decision. If you lose your way in this decision, the concern by alumni is others will follow in a similar way.

I would prefer a moniker that is more sensitive to all cultures and is, honestly, a little cooler than some lame old white dude :)

I didn't know there was an issue and I don't see anything negative about it. It's uplifting and signifies the beginning of our country. It works perfectly with the name of the college.

I am unclear why a rank in the US military might be divisive. Am I mistaken about what the moniker represents? If so, my answers to these questions may be different.

It is ridiculous to even consider changing the name. There is no reason to do so! I will never give another dollar if it is done and the University give in to this radical movement.

Hippos would be better

I am very against the moniker. We don't need to represent our school with a symbol from a very racist, hurtful past. It is not inclusive and unnecessary.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Always thought that "Washingtonians" would have been a better name, or honestly anything else you can find to associate with George Washington that isn't colonization or slavery.

I can't believe you need a survey to know how racist this is.

I felt the moniker always related specifically to George Washington, the man. But as a child of refugees from Europe, it always felt very Plymouth Rock to me — definitely didn't include me. And I see how colonialism is obviously not the great thing that even my generation was taught it was growing up. We've come a long way, society has evolved... GWU can, too.

I always preferred the hippo.

And leave the statues alone too.

The moniker doesn't bother me per se, but I think it's still a good idea to rename. There are plenty of ways to honor George that don't rub people the wrong way. Personally I like the "water horse" since the hippo is the unofficial mascot anyway, and I think it's a better sports metaphor than Colonial.

This is a stupid argument to be having especially while continuing to increase the cost of tuition without increasing the value of a degree to students.

I am ambivalent to the "Colonials" moniker, as a club sport athlete (and currently coach) I think we are much more known both around campus and by other schools as "GW" or "George Washington" even in an athletic sense. I also really like the current logo package and would not want the "GW" or "George" logos replaced. I also take pride in the connection to George Washington and would not want that changed.

I believe this proposal is extremely low level priority. Primarily what Athletics should be doing in free-time (and collectively) is service to the community, and helping be leaders on campus. GW Athletics is doing very well on that front. After this is said and done, it doesn't matter too much what our moniker is, unless it is heavily aggressive/offensive. I highly doubt anyone loves the Colonials moniker any more than they'd love the next one.

George Washington led the country from being a group of colonies in America to being a federal system of states; I see nothing offensive or wrong with the moniker as a reference to a member of that young nation with the spirit and gumption to forge a new nation.

As students, I'm sure most, if not all of us, were proud to attend GW because the Colonials represented courage, strength, and optimism. Therefore, we should keep this moniker as a symbol of these characteristics of every GW student, faculty, and staff.

You should not erase history and our moniker is no different. Another example is redskins, while some find it offensive most recognize the Indians as fierce Warriors...now our Football team Name is just stupid Without any creativity. Please do not let social pressure erase history....it would be better to explain. What a person did good and bad then change the name.

The George Washington University was a wonderful school and I cherished my time there. I was never treated poorly or unfairly. Unfortunately you are falling for a false narrative. Please put your efforts into something more meaningful rather than looking for something that isn't there. Maybe you should look for bigfoot?

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Colonialism is defined as: "the policy or practice of acquiring full or partial political control over another country, occupying it with settlers, and exploiting it economically." Now, we will not argue that there haven't been some instances in history where colonialism has taken a negative turn. However, that is history and that is how America was created. There is no way to change history, because to change history means to forget our mistakes. The only thing we can do from here on out is to learn from our past actions. With that being said, George Washington fearlessly represented the colonists. What must be duly noted is the stark contrast of this group of colonists; they had taken their turn as the oppressed. This group of individuals had been persecuted for their religion for years by the British government. The man that broke the chains of persecution and oppression is our University's namesake: George Washington. A colonial. America would not be a free country but for this colonial fighting for our freedom. An attempt to undercut the significance and history of GWU's mascot strips away several important ideals. First, changing the name of the mascot eliminates a sense of school pride that this institution put in place in 1948 because George Washington, a colonial, has everything to do with this University. What possible significance or relation does something such a hippopotamus REALLY have to our school? Furthermore, as a former GW student-athlete, I was extremely proud to represent the colonial mascot. But what I learned as a former student athlete is that the general student body does not give a damn about the University's athletic programs. School pride in athletics at the George Washington University is not a priority. Instead, students express their passion in other arenas, such as political activism. The current situation is an example of political activism, but it is not taking into account the ramifications of its success, and is only thinking about the short term gratification. Renaming the mascot to something such as the "hippos" strips the student body of a sense of pride, it asserts that all colonialism is evil, it gives into impulsivity, and turns an integral part of this schools history into a farce. As a STUDENT-athlete, I was representing the George Washington University. No, I was not representing colonialism. The second ideal that would be eviscerated by this decision to change the mascot is the encouragement and ability to make and remember history. George Washington the man, the COLONIAL, our nation's first president, did just that. And since Colonials have been GWU's mascot since 1948, some of this country's most powerful people have graduated as Colonials. Colonialism has had ramifications that will forever impact this country and more importantly, this world. This country was founded by a man, a colonial, who broke the chains of his oppressors. George Washington, the colonial, stood for public service and a sense of pride. His wishes were to establish this great university. And you can't, nor should you be able to erase that history. We should be able to build on it through change and aspire to make history. Raul Yzaguirre, an Mexican-American civil rights activist, who grew up amidst oppression by the Texas government, graduated a Colonial. Abby Joseph Cohen, born to a Jewish family, an economist who was named as one of the 30 most powerful women in the United States, graduated a Colonial. Senator Tammy Duckworth, born in Thailand, a US Army veteran who received a Purple Heart award for her service, graduated a Colonial. Colin Powell, the only African American man to serve on the Joint Chief of Staff to date, 4 star United States Army General, and the first African American Secretary of State, graduated a colonial. Kerry Washington, an African American women, a pioneer in Hollywood, graduated a colonial. These astounding alumni are from historically oppressed groups in this country, but they are alumni of the George Washington University and they are Colonials. Like their university's namesake, they make history every day. Because I attended the George Washington University, I want to make history. I want to undo the wrongs that have gone on in this world and in this country, just like George Washington did. I proudly choose to do that as an alumni, and as a Colonial. Forever. That is why we, as students, faculty and staff of the George Washington University believe it is imperative to continue the use of the colonial mascot.

The moniker doesn't really make sense because DC wasn't in existence during the colonial period. I think it is important to examine the identity of DC in the thinking of changing the moniker and mascot. "Nationals" is taken but it's better than "Colonials."

I think it is a mistake to change it. Changing it would pull the school further away from me and less likely to ever donate to a school that I don't have a connection to.

I think it should be changed to something more inclusive. I understand colonialism is part of our nation's history and I also understand that the word may simply be used here to refer to the 13 colonies, but the problem is that the only thing it makes me think of when I hear it is, white oppressors. It's a painful part of history for those whose ancestors were colonized and/or subjugated during that time period, and who still face oppressions based on colonial-based hierarchical systems. (And yes, that includes me as a mixed race alumni).

While we were called the Colonials, I more identified with our mascot of George Washington and The Hippo.

Those who risked their lives and the welfare of their families to create our first and unique constitutional democracy, the political manifestation of the age of enlightenment, deserve to be acknowledged and remembered in our Nations's Capital and be an example of courage and commitment for GWU students

Seems silly to to keep the colonial moniker, I mean George Washington and a hippo are the more recognizable mascots / monikers.

It is time to change this moniker. It is offensive.

The fact that University resources are being wasted on this is an insult to tuition-payers.

Other

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

The fact that we even have to go through this exercise disappoints me. Along with shutting the school down for an entire year for no good reason. Higher education has lost its collective mind. Instead of wasting time on this inane topic. Open up the school. The 2020 Graduation class deserves it.

As the parent of a GW student-athlete alumnus we are proud of the school, its academic excellence and its sports traditions. Continuing traditions that thousands of alumni hold dear reaffirms GW's stature as a model for other institutions to emulate. Don't allow wayward political winds blow this fine university off course.

The Colonials moniker is embedded in the tradition of the school and should not be changed.

GW will forever be the Colonials!

I believe that sometimes in our history we have a tendency to swing the pendulum to far in making changes and this is one of those times. No matter what the time is we all should be proud to have "Colonials" as a moniker. It represents toughness and the ability to be strong in times of turmoil. During that during that time period those men/women fought to bring the freedoms that we are able to use even during this period of history. It's a sign of courage and tenacity not one of negativity. We do not have the country we now have if it wasn't for our courageous forefathers. I hope the GW community understands that they could really hurt the university by changing this "moniker". It would be a sad day. Keep the "Colonial" mascot!!

I worked for the University in Athletics and DAR for 26 years and NEVER thought of the 'Colonials' nickname in any negative manner. Go, Colonials!

If GWU removes the moniker, I will not be surprised. But the school should be aware that families and students who either privately donate or fund the school via tuition are not happy with the way the institution is being run- there is no upper level leadership, students make the rules, and hypersensitivity seems like the only thing I learned at my time with GWU.

I am very glad that the University is going thru this process With care & concern for all...

A colonial is not a colonizer.

I am a parent of a graduate student who is proud of GW and the school she graduated from.

I'm a past parent, cannot believe that the current student population can get this so wrong. General Washington saved us, that's all of us. No exceptions.

It needs to be made clear that the term Colonials refers to those in the 13 American colonies who worked and fought for independence from Great Britain. This may not be clear to students from other countries unfamiliar with US history. Celebrating our history does not mean ignoring the plight of native Americans or enslaved people, but those issues should not prevent us from celebrating our American heritage. This issue illustrates the need for more and better history education for our students, including international students. They need a better understanding of the history and culture of the country they chose to study in. American-born students need to understand this as well. We are a nation of immigrants and the American experience is unique. Furthermore, we cannot judge the actions and events of the settlement and founding of the United States through the lens of 21st century values. If we cannot cheer on the Colonials, we should not be the George Washington University.

There is no reason to erase history.

It is my sincere hope that The George Washington University does not fall to the Cancel Culture and "wokeness" that is in the media. This University needs to stand for values, ethics and traditions. This is best done by maintaining the moniker and expressing the need to embrace and learn from history.

We can't erase history.

Calling our teams "Colonials" feels very patriotic and goes well with athletes representing George Washington University. I am proud that my daughter, a student athlete, carries a team name that gives tribute to the many brave patriots which fought for our freedom.

I am a parent of a current GWU junior.

Please provide any other feedback on this matter.

The Colonial name has a specific historical reference that is grounded in the foundation of our country, and does not infer negative stereotypes. Almost any word in the dictionary can be linked to negative connotations; that does not lessen the positive connotations. Many of the people who are advocating for the retirement of the Colonial moniker are doing it for spite and vengeance, not intolerance.

I have attended nearly all the men's and women's basketball games and donated annually at the Colonial Club level since 1999. I have a very strong and deep sense of loyalty to GW - stronger than to my undergraduate or graduate alma matas (Penn and Harvard). One of the reasons we adopted GW to follow was George Washington. I have always admired the man. He was an early hero of my kids. The Colonials nickname is synonymous with GW, both the person and the University. Washington's army was the Colonial army (also called the Continental army). Unless the University is now ashamed of its namesake, it makes no sense to drop the Colonials nickname.

See "Revolutionaries" idea above

Go with Hippos. Easy change and instantly identifiable

Keep the moniker. Don't be another pussy institution that bows to the mob.

I would like to support those who feel strongly against this moniker.

Colonials refers to the rebellious Americans, without regard to race, national origin, etc. As such it became a taunt to a foreign (colonial) power. Viewed in this light and correctly understood, it should not be offensive to anyone within the US.

I think you should allow the current students and alumni to decide; as a parent, who did not attend this school, I am not sure I should weigh in. While deciding this however, we need to focus on getting the graduation ceremonies back in place NOW --perhaps holding several smaller ceremonies to accommodate smaller crowds while adhering to COVID measures--there is a way to do this.

I know that some students were pushing for the hippopotamus as the new mascot. As the parent of a female athlete, I think that would be horribly demeaning to all of the female athletes.

If you are to get rid of 'Colonials', you should rename the entire University because George Washington was a Colonial and led them, George Washington owned slaves (and therefore was racist), etc. [And make sure you get rid of everything Jefferson and similar along with it.] If you do one without the other, the University is showing its complete hypocrisy. Or, you evaluate this on its merits, you realize the \*context\* in which names and incidents occur, and you do the right thing. Again, if you decide to get rid of 'Colonials', you \*must\* completely rename the University and get rid of all references to 'George Washington', too. And you should fight to rename 'Washington, DC' while you are at it (and the Washington Monument, etc). You can't have it one way and not the other.

This exercise is a colossal waste of time. This is mob rule. The fact that it is even being considered shakes my faith in your institution. I will NOT send any of me remaining 3 children to any university that succumbs to radicals

I don't see how the moniker is offensive to anyone. I see no reason to change.

If GW does not have a transparent process on this matter with all sides able to participate in objective discourse and GWU decides to just go along with what is popular at the moment, we will stop donating to GWU. GWU needs to be a pinnacle for reason. If a rationale decision is made (regardless of outcome) without bending to the vocal mob then we will continue to support GWU.

Why don't you take your left-wing wokeness and stick it already. Seventy thousand a year to look at a computer screen, canceling the sport my kid got recruited for. Pay a fortune so he could attend your mediocre institution with a crummy campus. And this is the nonsense you concern yourself with? Why are you talking about the Colonials? Go ahead and rename the entire university, and the city you are in. How can you dump Colonials and keep the name of your slaveowner namesake? How about Black Lives Matter University? If you even have a city left next time it gets torched.

**End of Report**



