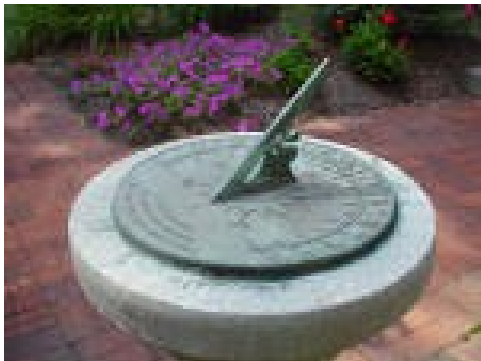


TIME

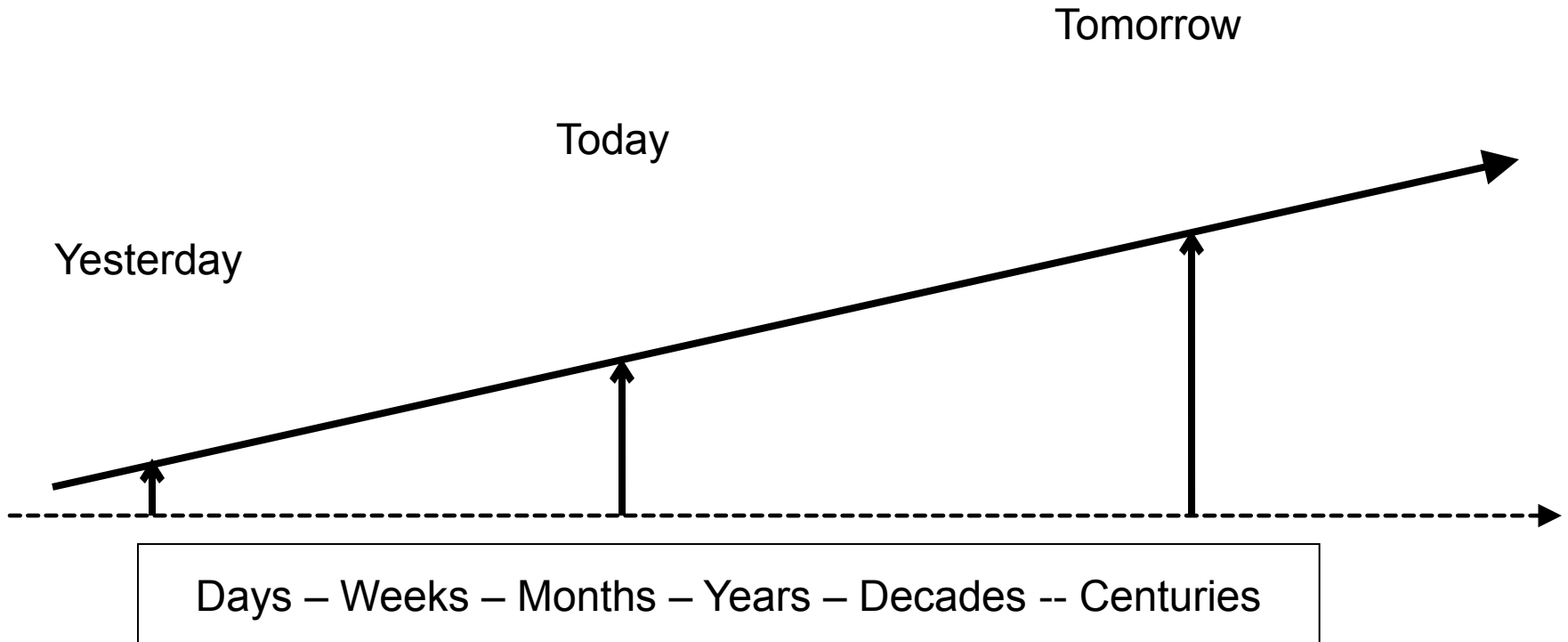
- Time is an important element in all sports
- All sports create a structure of time to help define the limits of competition
- People have different ways of thinking about time



Which is Your Time?



Most Modern Industrial Societies Operate on
LINEAR TIME



Linear Time Has Some Important Characteristics

Time Never Repeats and always moves forward

- ☐ We like to think of time as moving upward, representing progress
- ☐ We define the progress by constructing time lines
- ☐ We define our lives by keeping time with precise clocks
- ☐ In linear time, all units of time are the same
- ☐ Linear time does not measure subjective experiences

We train ourselves to live by **Linear Time**

- ☐ We learn that success is a function of never missing a unit of time
- ☐ We are taught to be **On Time**, to worry about **Time Lost**
- ☐ We are scolded when we **Miss a Time** or **Waste Time**
- ☐ We teach **Time Management**
- ☐ We model time from the railroad or the assembly line



Modern Times
Charlie Chaplin
1936

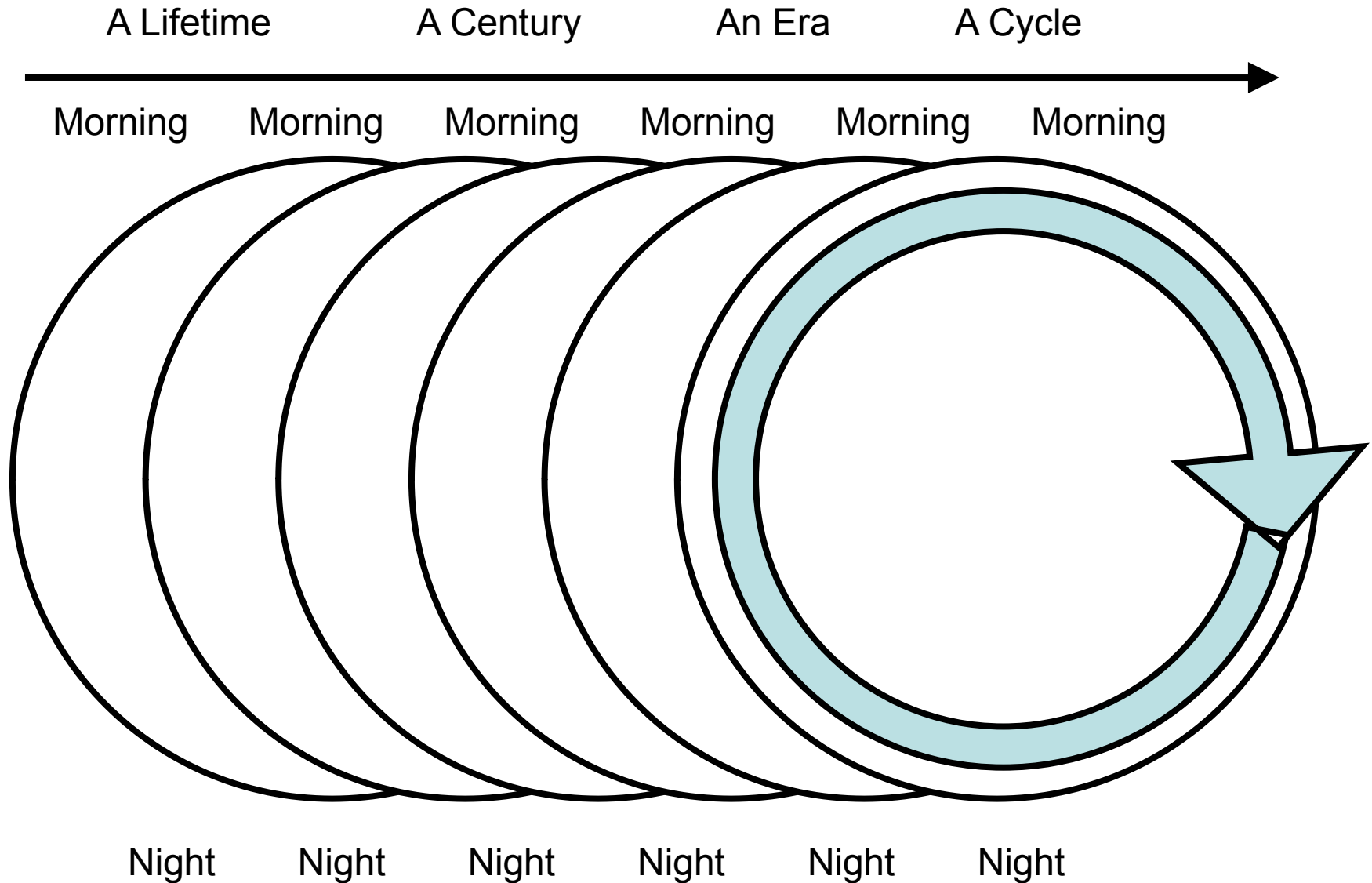


1951
Oldsmobile
Assembly
Line



Agricultural and Other Non-Industrial Societies Live on

CIRCULAR TIME



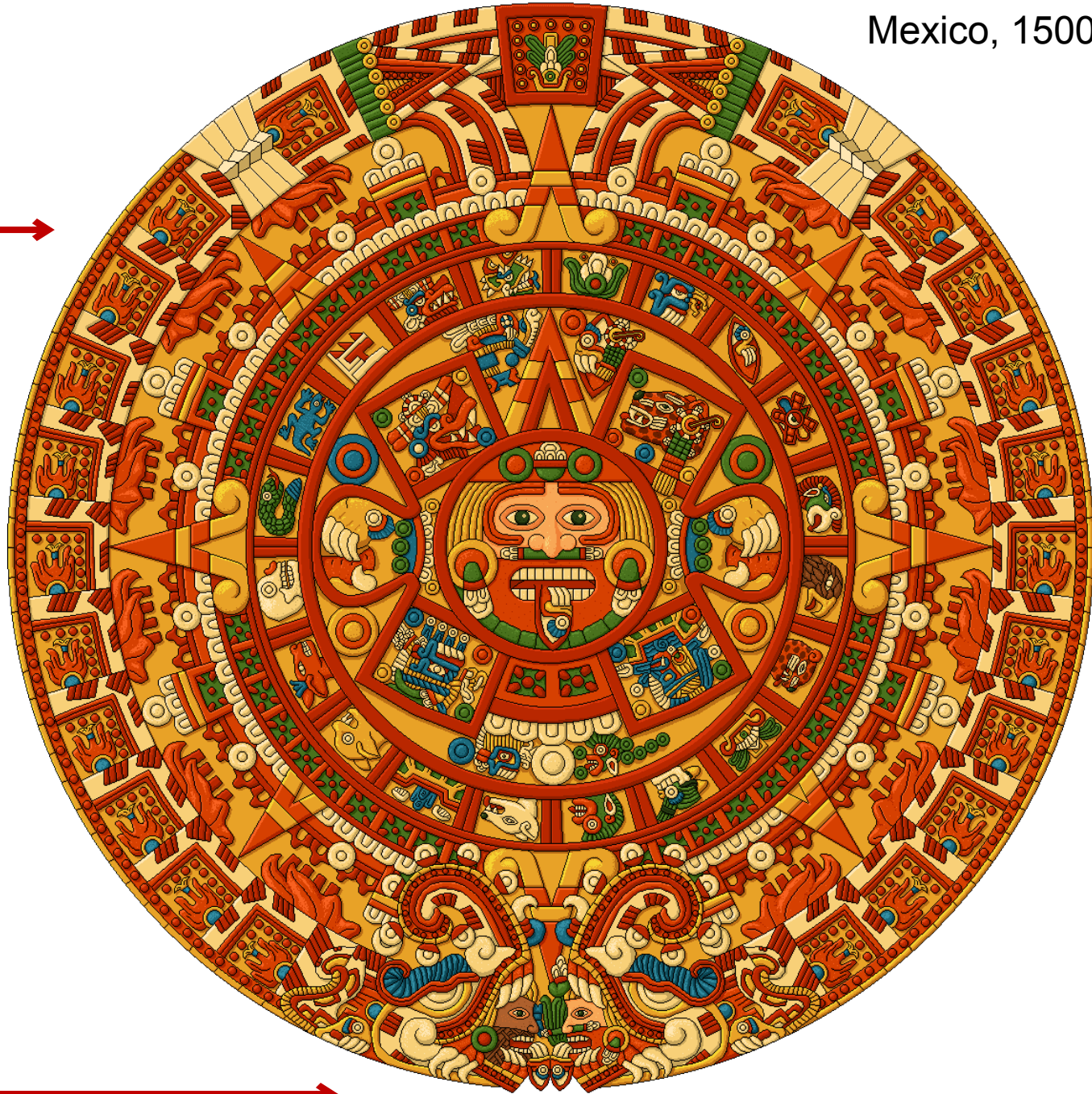
Circular Time

Time is Natural and Always Repeats

- ☐ One day repeats much like every other day
- ☐ Each year repeats much like every other year
- ☐ **Purpose of life is to match behavior to the cycles of nature**
- ☐ Progress is less important than matching to the rhythm of life
- ☐ Competition focuses on meeting nature's cycles of life
- ☐ Expertise about the nature's cycles is highly valued
- ☐ Training through the observation and experience of agriculture, seasons, weather cycles, astronomy
- ☐ History and experience teach through the observation of the repetitive character of events
- ☐ Society emphasizes and celebrates the cyclical nature of birth, anniversaries, death, and rebirth

The Aztec Calendar Stone shows the cycles of life, both agricultural and spiritual.

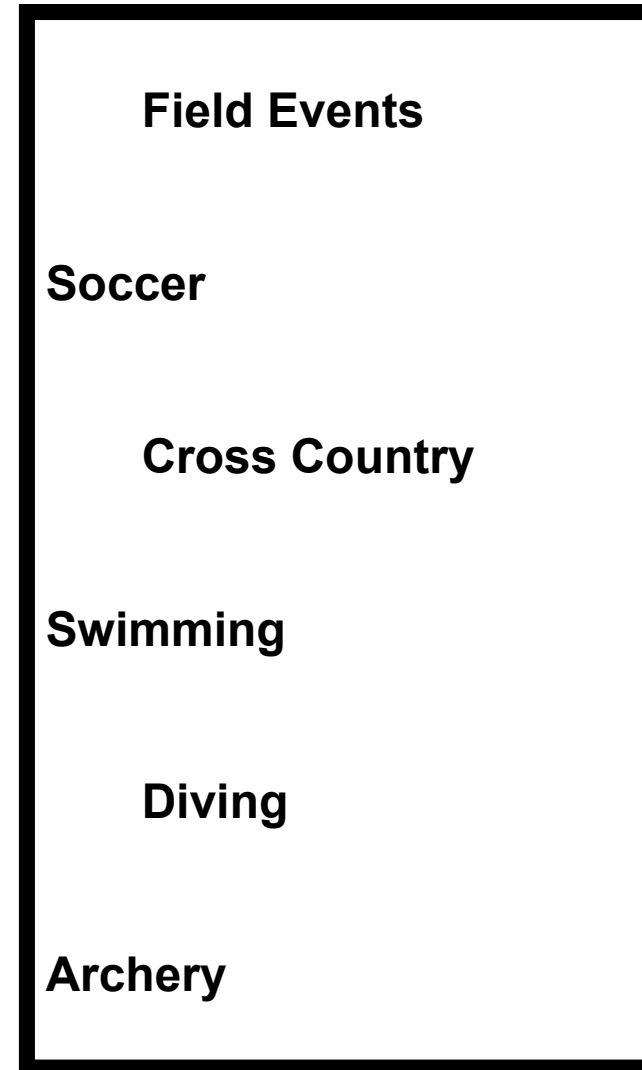
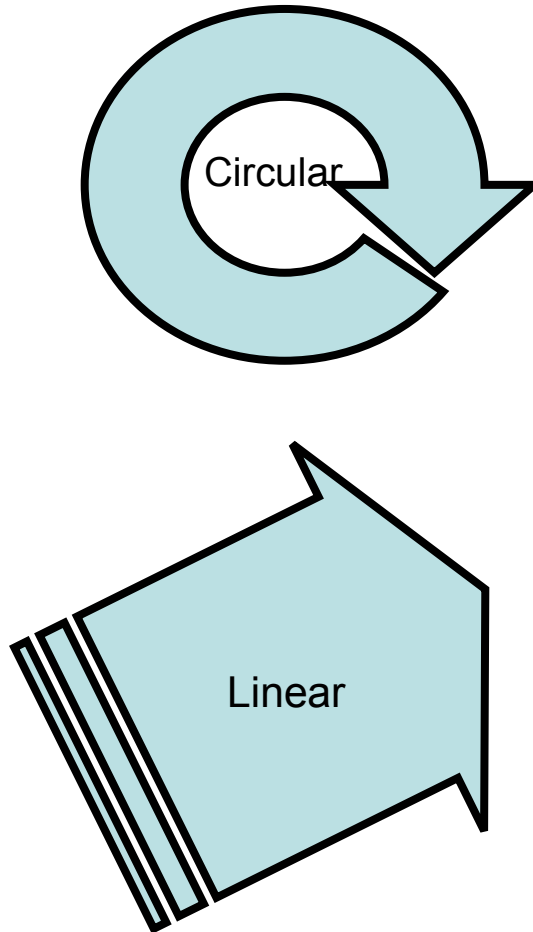
Mexico, 1500



It displays the repetitive circular competition of the gods that sustains the continuation of life.

What Sports Capture Which Concept of Time?

What Is the Value of Time within These sports?



*In Sports and in Life,
Space Defines the
Limits of Our Action
and the Circumstances
of Our Competition*

Space

Life is associated with a space, a place

- ❑ We **live** in the United States, in a state, and in a city
- ❑ We **come** from different **places** before we arrived here
- ❑ We **go** to different **places** after we are finished here
- ❑ We **behave** differently in different places
- ❑ **Opportunity** differs from place to place
- ❑ We see our **risks** and **opportunities** in relation to space
 - ❑ **their** country's **war** is not **our** country's **war**
 - ❑ **their** country's **hunger** is not **our** country's **hunger**
 - ❑ **their** country's **success** is not **our** country's **success**
 - ❑ **their** country's **relationships** are not **our** country's **relationships**
- ❑ We see **opportunities** as different **by place** (neighborhood, city, state, region)
- ❑ **Space** is a critical element in life, and so too in sports

Sports Imitates Life

Each sport creates an artificial space, with specific **limitations**.

Each sport is a competition that **imitates** aspects of our lives within this space.

Like real life, sports spaces:

- ❑ **limit and define** opportunity for action and achievement, and
- ❑ success depends on managing **opportunities within these limits**.

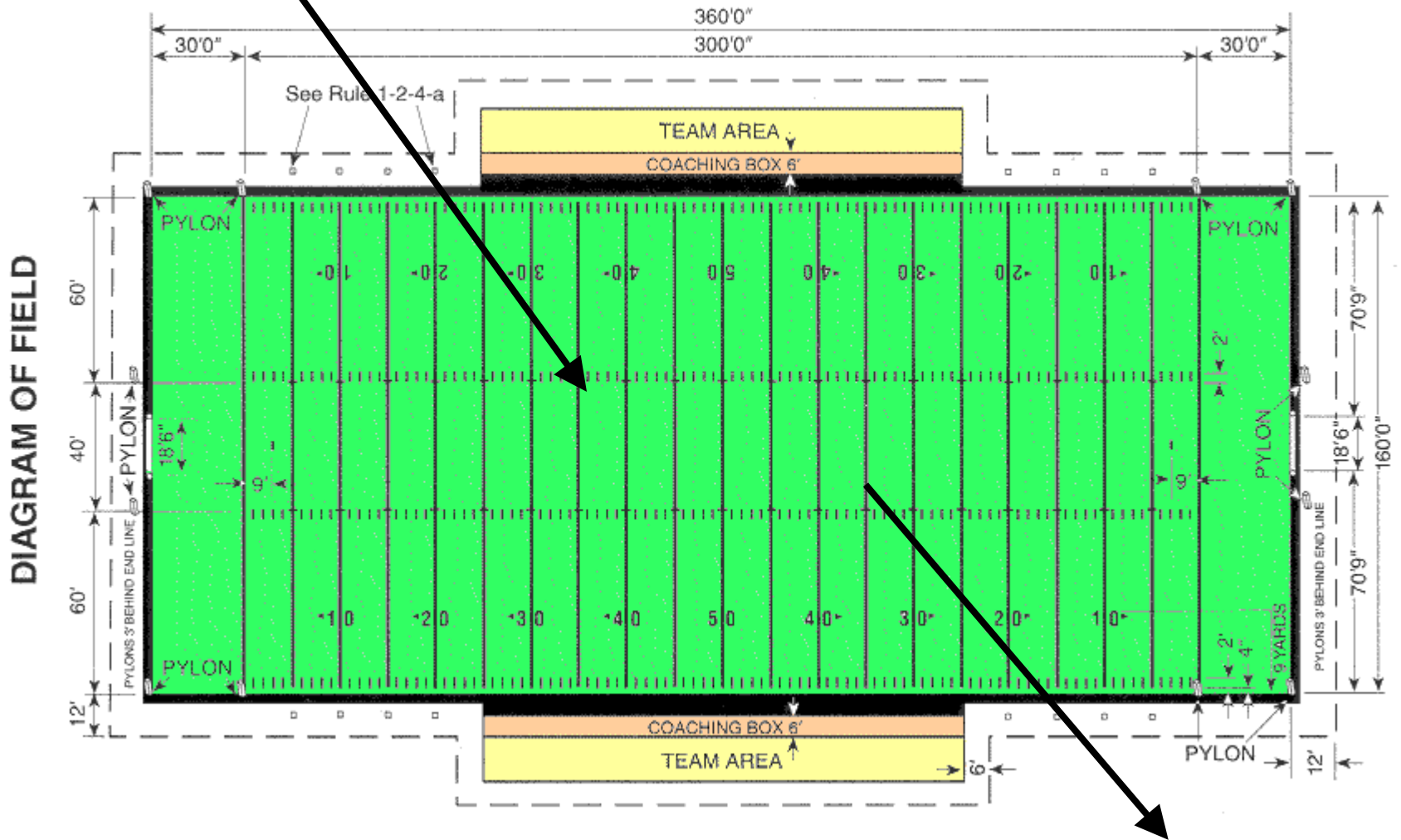
Unlike real life, each sports space is:

- ❑ specifically **constructed**,
- ❑ dramatically **simplified**,
- ❑ uniform and carefully **defined**, and
- ❑ **artificially** created for that sport.

Unlike real life, a sports space:

- ❑ **Is the same** for everyone who plays that sport,
- ❑ has constraints and characteristics **known to everyone**.

Sports life contained within this **defined** space and is the **same** for everyone



Real life has **multiple** and **complex** spaces that are often **different** for everyone

Outfield (Grass, 290-410 feet)

Infield (dirt)

2nd base

95 feet

Grass or dirt

Pitcher's mound

diam. 18 feet

Pitcher's plate

60.5 feet

Home plate

Foul territory

On-deck circle

Catcher's box

Batter's boxes



Because sport spaces are artificial and constructed, each sport offers a different perspective on the dimensions of space

- ☐ Baseball
- ☐ Golf
- ☐ Track



Every Sport Defines Space and Time in Specific Ways

These definitions create competitions that capture **essential features** of life.

Because **sports** competitions are artificial, specially designed representations of life, they have **different combinations** of **time** and **space**.

Some **emphasize** the constraints of **time**, some the constraints of **space**.

Golf has loosely defined space and variable time, basketball has rigidly defined space and time, track has rigidly defined space and competes on time.

Each **combination** of space and time **matches** some elements of our own **experiences** or preferences, and we often appreciate those sports that most closely match our own experiences and expectations.

Although sports imitates life through definitions of space and time,

Sports Participants are People who Compete in Events.

These **competitions**, too, are **artificial** constructs that simplify and imitate life.

Life is **complicated**, but **sports limit** the complexity to focus on the relationship between the performance of individual people and the influence of the event (or game) within which they compete.

Each sport offers an artificially constructed **balance** between the importance of **individual effort** and the significance of the **competitive context** in producing a winning result.

We prefer sports where the **balance** between the individual performance and the competitive context **matches** our own experience or preferences.

People and Events

People and Events

History is about **People** and **Events**, through **Time** and in **Place**

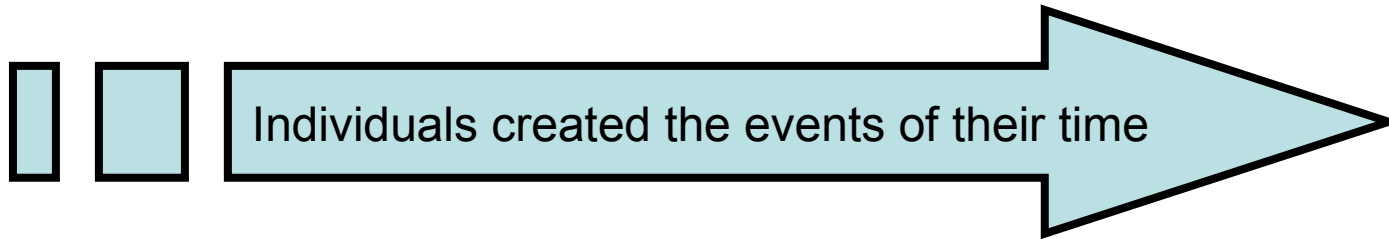
History explains the relationship between **individuals** and the **events** that affect their lives.

To understand what caused our past success or failure and to anticipate our future success, we can see the process of **cause** and **effect** in two ways:

1. **Individuals**, specific people, determined the course of the **events**, or
2. The **events created** opportunities for **individuals**, specific people.

People and Events

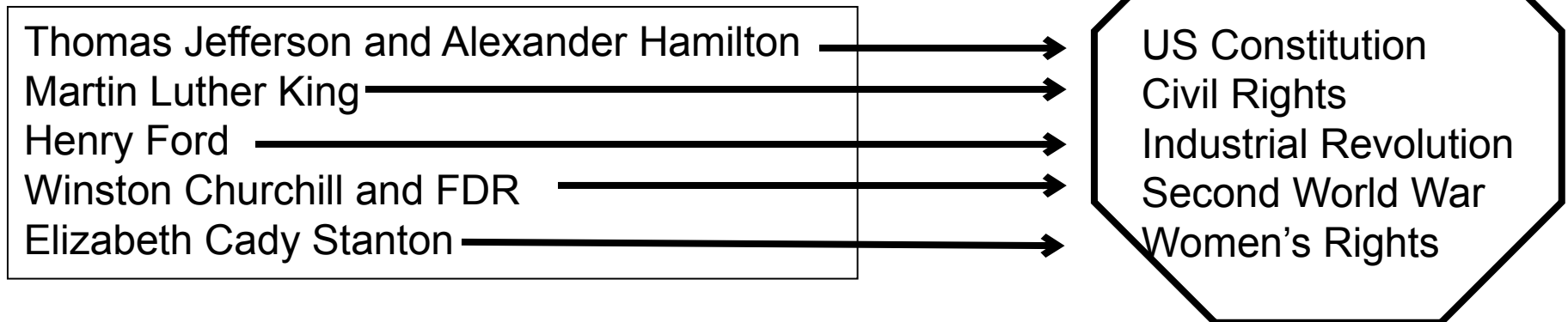
I. We can believe that individuals created the events of their time



Elizabeth Cady Stanton

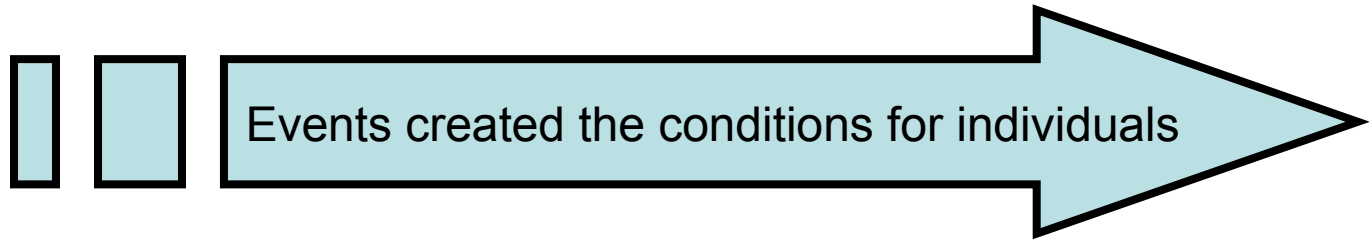
The Events

The People

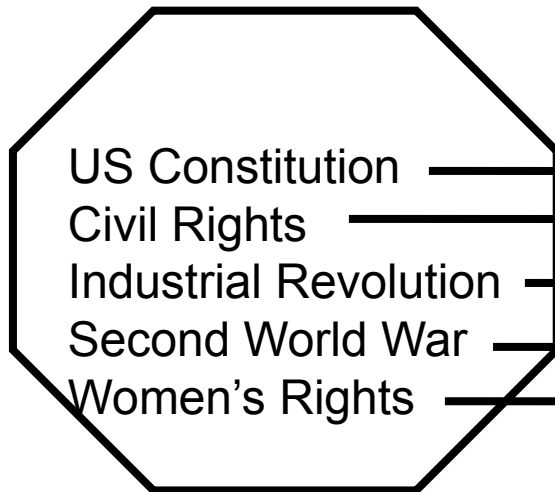


People and Events

II: We can believe that events created the conditions for individuals to triumph



The Events



US Constitution

Civil Rights

Industrial Revolution

Second World War

Women's Rights

The People

Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton

Martin Luther King

Henry Ford

Winston Churchill and FDR

Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Sports Simplify Life

What is the model of life in Sports?
Life is complicated, and sports are simple.
To imitate life, sports provide different models

In some, the **individual** is primary:
Track, Diving, Golf, Shot Put





In Others, the **Event** is Primary:

Crew, Rugby, Volleyball



Some sports focus on both
the **event** and the **individual**:

Hockey, Basketball, Football



www.csc.edu

In Life,

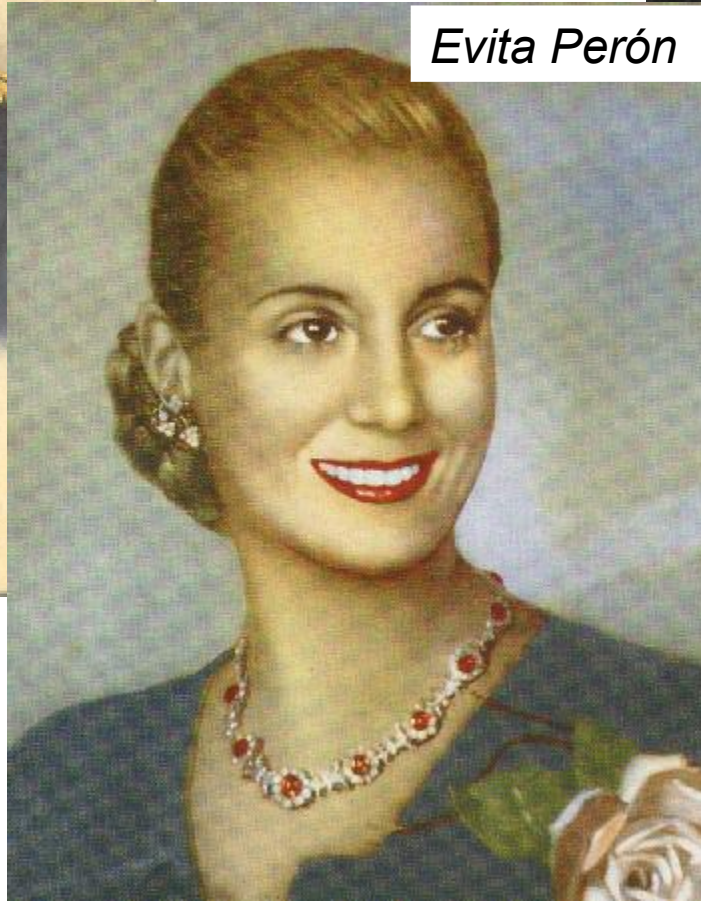
*We may believe
that **people** cause triumphant **events**
or*

*We may believe that **events** create
opportunities for people to triumph*

Simón Bolívar



Evita Perón



Dr. Martin Luther King



In Life and in Sports

- ❑ WE want to be significant =
Sports emphasize **individual achievement**
- ❑ WE recognize that we rarely can be significant on our own =
Sports emphasize **team, group, and event**
- ❑ WE know that circumstances create opportunities for individuals =
Sports focus on the circumstances of the **competition** that create heroes
- ❑ WE know that “chance favors the prepared mind” =
Sports emphasizes **training and practice**
- ❑ WE know that talent is critical to the opportunity for success =
Sports focuses on remarkable **individual performance**
- ❑ WE know that life is competitive, uncertain, and difficult =
Sports highlights the **accidents and chance** that create or deny opportunity
- ❑ WE wish that life allowed us to restart our own lives anew =
Sports begins each game as new, each **season as undefeated**
- ❑ WE wish that the world’s rewards were unambiguous and definitive =
Sports **keeps score** and determines **clear winners**

***How do different sports
simplify and organize
time and space to model real life?***

***How do different sports
model the relationship
between people and events ?***

What can we talk about online?

- ✓ What definitions of time and space appear most useful for understanding sports?
- ✓ What in the simplifying structure of different sports in their use of time and space appeals to different audiences?
- ✓ What elements of different sports speak to the importance of individual action or the opportunity of circumstances in defining the cause of events?
- ✓ How can we balance the importance of individual action and the influence of circumstances in the analysis of historical events?