Lecture: You’re not in the game if you’re sitting on the bench!

In my other life, I took a two-week class to be a Bicycle officer.

You might not think that it’s worth two weeks of your time to learn how to ride a bicycle, but

It was a pretty in depth class. It involved shooting, physical training, some law- and of course – every day-riding the bike.

The instructor was a huge bike enthusiast, in his off hours he competed in all terrain bike races. Whenever he saw one of us using the bike seat, he would rev up the speed or difficulty.

He had an expression- If you’re sitting on the bench, your not in the game.

It was his way of telling us that when you’re on duty, you should always be 100% attentive to what you’re doing. You can slack off because it was dangerous- and also because you needed to be attentive to see things to make arrests.

In history we see examples of people sitting on the bench- and others who are in the game.

In some states, African Americans could not use the same facilities as whites. There were a lot of people that objected to this and said “that’s really wrong” and that was it- they were just sitting on the bench. It took five African American teens to go to a lunch counter and refuse to move until they were served. It took a woman who refused to sit in the back of the bus and church groups from the north to buss their congregations to the south to protest segregation- it took all of these people to be IN THE GAME before anything positive happened.

And when those people were older, some people could tell their children that they stood up and did something and other could just say they were alive when it happened. Some people were in the game, and others just sat on the bench.

School is like that.

You can come to this class every day. You might even do your homework. But if you don’t find a way to be in the game, you’re not really getting your money’s worth out of this school. You need to be in the game. Read more than just your assignments, engage in the classroom conversations, argue with the teacher (about history- not school rules)!