

Native Social Issues Research

Directions: You have read Power’s “Museum Indians,” which addresses the vanishing of native cultures, and a series of news articles on the Dakota Access Pipeline, which examines environmental racism. Today you will research the controversy surrounding native representation through sports logos. You will read a poem by Sherman Alexie and analyze his stance on the issue. Then you will locate reliable sources that discuss both the pros and cons of using native names and images for sports team logos. After conducting thorough, accurate research, you will identify native concerns and mainstream culture’s response to these concerns? Whose response is justified? Whose voice is heard? How do both sides use language and writing to convey their beliefs? Which writing styles and choices are more powerful?

Part 1: Sherman Alexie Poem Analysis

1. Who is Alexie’s target audience?
2. What is Alexie’s attitude toward the subject?
3. What is Alexie’s message?
4. What literary devices, persuasive strategies, or structural choices does Alexie use to convey his message?

Part 2: Native Representation through Sports Teams Logos

1. Locate multiple, reliable sources.
2. Examine each side of the issue.
3. Write a précis on each article.

4. Identify the concerns of native peoples.
5. Identify the concerns of mainstream culture.
6. Identify the responses of native peoples and mainstream culture.

7. Whose response is justified?
8. How do both sides use language and writing to convey their beliefs?
9. Which writing styles and choices are more powerful?
10. Whose voice is heard?

11. Write a short Op Ed
 - Pick a side
 - Write a short article supporting your stance
 - Select powerful, biased language to help convey your stance
 - Integrate facts and reference sources to support your claims

12. Write a non-biased journalism article
 - Select neutral language
 - Structure your ideas in a non-biased, easy-to-follow format
 - Base your article on facts