

Study Questions For “Saskatchewan’s Indian People-- Five Generations”

These questions connect to p. 167 of *Acting on Words*. Sources for further reading on the topic follow the questions.

For Further Thinking

1. What appear to be the writer’s sources of information?
2. How would you describe the tone and style of this essay? Does the essay appear adapted to a particular audience of readers?
3. What seems to be the writer’s controlling idea? How did you locate it?
4. What organizational strategies have been used? To what extent does this essay apply the three organizational steps for process description?
5. Is the history reported in this article new information for you, or do you feel it has already been covered in previous school curricula? Have you had direct experience of Native history?
6. If you have direct knowledge of Native cultures, do you think they have elements that would benefit our wider society? If so, explain.
7. Comment on Deiter-McArthur’s basic methods of exposition in this essay.
8. Do you feel, in some instances, that forms of propaganda and misunderstanding hinder the treatment of Native issues? Explain your opinion.

Looking Back and Ahead

Deiter-McArthur concludes her survey with the suggestion that although the fifth generation (today’s young adults) is the first since treaty-signing to be raised by their parents, nevertheless their loss of Indian language may make it difficult to retain their

Indian identity. How does this point apply to Habeeb Salloum's essay "The Other Canadians and Canada's Future" (p. 416)?

Practice

See Chapter 12 on how to prepare an essay that compares two pieces of writing. Use the "Differences and Similarities Test" to develop an essay comparing "Saskatchewan's Indian People—Five Generations" and "Canada's Genocide" (p. 443). See pages 176 – 185 in Chapter 12 for further ideas of how to find your controlling idea and shape your discussion.

For Further Reading

Aboriginal Rights Coalition of British Columbia. April 2003. <http://arcbc.tripod.com/>

The site explains that legal action to secure Native right to lands in the province was touched off largely by the federal government's 1969 White Paper.

Campbell, Maria. *Halfbreed*. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1973. This autobiography, the inspiration for innumerable Native authors, describes the Saskatchewan Métis.

———, trans. *Stories of the Road Allowance People*. Penticton, BC: Theytus, 1995. Combined with original artwork, this book presents a number of traditional stories from the Saskatchewan Métis.

Dickason, Olive. *Canada's First Nations: A History of Founding Peoples from Earliest Times*. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1992.