

## 1 | Prompt

Orange theorizes the concept of the "Urban Indian" in his Prologue (11). Define this concept and explain

## 2 | Outline

- Thesis (?)
  - \*Tony's identity as an Urban Indian is initially characterized by his embracement of his urban upbringing and his Indian past, but as the novel progresses, Tony starts exploring the Indian cultural side of his identity.\* (To be changed in the future)
- What is an Urban Indian?
  - "Urbanity" section in Prologue
  - Indians that were forced into an unfamiliar lifestyle and forced to lose their identity in favor of the status quo identity
  - Attached to their cultural past and their history
  - This is going to be a hard concept to communicate exactly into words in the essay
- Talk about Tony Loneman and the Drome
  - Face is a consequence of urban Indian life and its many hardships
    - \* Disconnect from culture and socioeconomic pressure leads many Urban Indians to alcohol addiction
  - Tony literally says that "the Drome" (i.e. Alcohol Poisoning) is "my mom and why she drank, it's the way history lands on a face, and all the ways I made it so far despite how it has fucked with me since the day I found it there on the TV, staring back at me like a fucking villain."
    - \* In essence, the Drome is a metaphor (in Tony's, and in our, minds,) of the burden that is being an Urban Indian.
      - Drome causing Tony to be stupid => Stereotypes about Indians being stupid???
    - \* However, Tony claims that he has overcome the Drome
      - "all the ways I made it so far despite how it has fucked with me since the day I found it there on the TV"
- MF DOOM passage (May Remove)
  - "And it helped because the Drome's what gives me my soul, and the Drome is a face worn through."
    - \* Tony has internalized the Drome as part of his identity (i.e. came to terms with it)
  - MF DOOM background
    - \* MF DOOM had many hardships (brother died, got dropped by his record label, was homeless for a while)
- Tony's disconnect from Indian culture
  - Evident in robbing the Powwow
    - \* Tony doesn't hesitate when Octavio tells him they will rob the Powwow
  - Tony still feels the Indian culture deep down

- \* "I tightened my chin strap. I looked at my face. The Drome. I didn't see it there. I saw an Indian. I saw a dancer."
  - To Tony (and other Urban Indians), embracing Indian culture (i.e. regalia) helps with overcoming the Drome (i.e. Urban Indian burden).
- \* Tony's actions in last chapter
  - ""

### 3 | Essay (1st draft)

[Hook + talk about Urban Indian]

Tony's identity as an Urban Indian is initially characterized by his embracement of his urban upbringing. It is clear that initially Tony is cynical in regards to his Native American past. [Talk about Drome and] However, Tony's view of his ancestry shifts during [whenever it shifts.] [Elaborate.] This shift is significant because it represents . The shift is mirrored in several other main characters.

### 4 | Essay (2nd draft)

In his breakout novel *There There*, Orange tackles the question of what it means to be Native American in the modern world. The concept of the "Urban Indian" is a recurring and central theme throughout *There There*. Orange defines the "Urban Indian" as a person who is Native American but lives in an urban environment. No character's identity reflects this aspect of Urban Indian identity more than that of Tony. Tony's mother, Mary, is a Native American who lives in an urban environment. Tony's identity as an Urban Indian is closely tied to his perception of the Drome. Tony claims that "[t]he Drome is the thing that makes you feel like you're not really Indian." Despite his rejection of his Native American identity, Tony still displays signs of embracing that side of himself. As the main character of the first and last chapter, Tony's exploration of his identity as an Urban Indian is a central theme of the novel.