Joseph Bruchac is more like being heretical than offering constructive criticism. In other words, he is rather offering destructive criticism on Christianity. In his article, he points out many weaknesses of western values and western religion. He also compares the western and native ways of viewing the world, and argues in many aspects the native way is advantageous.

He first summarizes, in his opinion, the western thought on nature. “In European thought, nature and ‘man’ are separate… the nature world is an adversary, a mindless, spiritless thing to be controlled, subdued, and used.” Then he introduces the native world view of the “Great Mystery”, where “all life is sacred … hunting is a process that involves cooperation between the spirits of hunter and hunted. … Spirit is in all things. We must show respect for all things and accept the gifts in the proper way.” He also points out that the lack of understanding of nature, of the “Great Mystery”, has led to the current environmental crisis, and the native way can help resolve such issue.

Later, he talks about the issue of religion. Ever since the Europeans came, they had always tried to convert the Indians to the “true religion”. Through Red Jacket, the author raised questions and doubts on Christianity. “If there is one, why do you whites differ so much about it?” “We had nothing to do with killing ‘the Savior’” Unlike the native beliefs, the western religion separates human from nature, and such idea is “foreign to the Native peoples of North America”. Moreover, the author points out that the western religion relies on certain forms of practicing, such as going to church on Sunday, whereas the for the natives, spirituality and traditions are more like internal beliefs and everywhere can be sacred. Last but not least, being Christian did not make the whites treat Indians better.

The author then again advertises the native philosophy, the understanding of the “Great Mystery”.

Bruchac does not begin his article with direct argument, or explicitly states his purpose. Instead, he first tells a story of a hunter and a walrus. The story is quite unusual and seems to have some deep meanings and implications. Readers might be attracted by this story and wonder what the author intends to convey through the story. Through Throughout the article.

Thomas King is not as direct or explicit as Bruchac is in his article. King also compares the native and western religions, the creation stories, and values associated with them. He also implies that Christianity underlies many social problems and conflicts. However, King, unlike Bruchac, does not advertise native philosophy through direct arguments. He raises questions, shares his thoughts, and leaves the judging to the readers.

He also starts with his article with stories. First he tells stories of his own family, how his mother had raised him and his brother, and how they found their father. The readers might echo with many of the details in these stories, like when he was a kid, he dreamt about interspace travel. Such beginning captures the readers’ thoughts immediately and they may wonder what the author intends to say through these stories. He then offers two stories of creation, the native creation one, the woman who fell from the sky, and the genesis. Again, the story itself is very interesting, like the author says, “the conversational voice tends to highlight the exuberance of the story.” Through these stories, the author is able to attract the readers’ attention and keeps them interested in what he has to say next.

Through comparisons between native story of creation and genesis, King not only shows the differences between the plot or content of the stories, but also focuses on the different story telling styles.

King thinks the western religion builds on the idea of hierarchy, where an autocratic and rigid being creates everything, whereas the native creation story represents harmony, and is more “understanding and sympathetic”. After a series of comparisons, he offers the readers a choice between “a world in which creation is a solitary, individual act; starts with harmony and slides towards chaos” and “a world in which creation is a shared activity, and begins in chaos and moves towards the harmony”. Although he is not explicit on the correct choice, his intention should be clear.