### **1. Unpack the Task**

**Task Focus:**  
Analyze the film Jasper Jones and respond to Dalziel’s claim that the film is told from a white perspective despite having an Indigenous director, supposedly adding historical connotations between white Australians and Aborigines.

**Response:**  
Develop an essay plan that argues against Dalziel’s view, showing that the film’s narrative is rich, diverse, and more focused on a complex, local community than on a single racial perspective.

### **2. Select Evidence from the Script**

**Key Things:**

* Dialogue and Tone: Look for exchanges that emphasize complex personal and community relationships rather than a clear-cut racial divide.
* Character Portrayals: Use scenes that highlight Jasper’s inner conflicts and how other characters question the town's values, suggesting a story beyond race.
* Narrative Scenes: Choose scenes from town meetings or personal conflicts that show a local, complex context instead of a fixed white narrative.

**Notable Details:**

* Passages showing moral and community dilemmas.
* Subtle hints in dialogue that highlight cultural blending and historical complexity.

### **3. Brainstorm Ideas & Connections**

**Narrative Richness:**

* The film’s layered narrative reflects multiple histories and viewpoints.
* Indigenous elements appear subtly through themes like guilt, memory, and exclusion.

**Cultural Interactions:**

* Characters are defined by personal struggles and community tensions, not merely by their race.
* The small-town setting supports a reading that values local experience over a dominant white narrative.

**Historical Perspective:**

* The film questions traditional stories using local legends and family secrets, challenging the idea of a single narrative.

**Directorial Influence:**

* Instead of imposing a white view, the Indigenous director adds cultural nuance that enriches the story rather than redefining it.

### **4. Brainstorm Arguments**

**Argument 1: Multiple Voices in a Local Setting**

**Point:** The film shows a community rich in diverse experiences rather than a single, white-dominated perspective.

**Evidence:**

* + Jasper reflects on his mother’s identity:

“I haven’t even seen a photograph. But I know she’s where I get my colour from. Her people aren’t from round here.”  
This line highlights Jasper’s awareness of a different cultural background, indicating that the narrative already questions a purely white viewpoint by foregrounding his non-local heritage.

**Argument 2: Complex Interpersonal Dynamics and Moral Dilemmas**

**Point:** The movie’s focus on personal conflict, family secrets, and ethical ambiguity shows that the story is driven by deeply human concerns rather than a predefined racial agenda.

**Evidence:**

* + During the tense confrontation about Laura’s death, the characters debate family responsibility and betrayal. For instance, when Jasper is confronted with the truth behind the tragedy, the dialogue reveals multiple layers of personal guilt and community distrust. This multi-layered conflict moves beyond a simple white narrative to explore complex human emotions and social tensions.

**Argument 3: Subversion of Traditional Authority and Historical Narratives**

**Point:** The film communicates skepticism toward established authority figures and traditional historical accounts, suggesting a narrative that is deliberately ambiguous and locally grounded.

**Evidence:**

* + Throughout the script, especially in scenes where characters discuss the investigation and town gossip, there is a clear sense that villagers lean on local legends and personal memories instead of accepting a single imposed explanation.
  + The blame placed on Jasper (“they blame that poor kid for everything”) and the subsequent questioning of police and authority figures illustrate that the narrative invites the audience to look at history and community life as multifaceted rather than a monolithic white perspective.

### **5. Develop a Thesis Statement**

While Lucy Dalziel claims that Jasper Jones is driven by a white perspective merely repackaged by an Indigenous director, the film’s layered narrative, diverse character dynamics, and rich local context demonstrate that it transcends a simple racial framework. Instead of reinforcing a predetermined historical view, the film creates space for an inclusive conversation about identity and community.

### **6. Gather and Research Interpretations**

**Secondary Sources:**

* **Reviews and Critiques:** Find reviews that point out the film’s narrative diversity and local focus.
* **Comparative Analysis:** Research scholarly interpretations that argue against a dominant white perspective by highlighting the film’s subversive elements.

**Counterpoints:**

* Briefly acknowledge Dalziel’s claim and then introduce evidence from academic sources and the script itself that challenge her view.

### **7. Essay Sequence Outline**

**Introduction**

**Introduce the Debate:**

* + Briefly introduce Jasper Jones and summarize Dalziel’s claim that the story is told from a white perspective even when directed by an Indigenous filmmaker.

**Thesis Statement:**

* + State that the film’s narrative complexity—through its layered character dynamics, local cultural conflicts, and subversive treatment of authority—demonstrates that it transcends a single white viewpoint.

**Body Paragraph 1:**

**Discuss Narrative Context:**

* + Explain how Australian literature often reflects various local voices.
  + Introduce the idea that Jasper Jones incorporates personal and historical complexities that defy simple categorization.

**Body Paragraph 2: Evidence of Multiple Voices in a Local Setting**

**Examine Setting & Identity:**

* + Use the evidence where Jasper notes, “Her people aren’t from round here,” to show that the film foregrounds mixed cultural identities.
  + Argue that by highlighting Jasper’s diverse heritage, the film challenges the assumption of a solely white narrative focus.

**Body Paragraph 3: Complex Interpersonal Relationships & Moral Dilemmas**

**Explore Family and Community Conflict:**

* + Analyze the dialogue during the confrontation, as characters wrestle with the consequences of Laura’s death and family betrayal.
  + Discuss how these personal conflicts illustrate that the film’s central concerns are human and community-based rather than predetermined by race.

**Body Paragraph 4: Challenging Traditional Authority and Historical Narratives**

**Discuss the Role of Authority Figures:**

* + Reference the collective distrust of official explanations
  + Explain how this skepticism toward authority reveals a narrative approach that is experimental and locally focused, instead of reinforcing a dominant white historical perspective.

**Conclusion**

**Recap Main Points:**

* + Summarize how evidence from the script demonstrates that Jasper Jones presents a layered narrative with multiple identities, complex personal dynamics, and a critical stance toward traditional authority.

**Restate Thesis:**

* + Reinforce that while Dalziel claims the film is shaped by a white perspective, the script itself reveals a story enriched by varied cultural influences and local experiences.

**Broader Implications:**

* + Suggest that the film’s narrative approach invites viewers to question monolithic historical narratives and appreciate the complexity of local community life in Australia.