

John Li

## SA 2.1: Critical Assessment Of Pratt

In Louise Pratt's 'Art of the Contact Zone', she emphasizes the importance of the contact zone, and also described the advantages along with disadvantages. She begins her writing by telling us about an event where her son was made fun of for his pronunciation. This ultimately rubbed her the wrong way, and she begins giving us the entire backstory of her son, Sam. She tells us reader the power of literacy and how Sam developed it through baseball, and also shaming the school for not giving her son any meaningful tasks. Then she goes ahead and talks about the history of the Guaman Poma's Letter, and then abruptly defines the contact zone – a place where two cultures come together and teach / learn from each other, simply an exchange in information. The text quickly moves onto the aftermath of the interaction between the Spanish and the Inca, where it immediately talks about the Spanish being greedy and conquering the other culture. Afterwards, it began talking about teachers and the affects of a class called 'Cultures, Ideas, Values'. With these examples, Pratt believes that the <sup>Pros</sup> cons of the contact zone outweigh the disadvantages, because the disadvantages are easily preventable and controlled, as long as it is addressed. She simply believes that the contact zone is a great way of gathering new perspectives and that there aren't many risks.

I believe that her claim will most likely attract many individuals, because the way she formats her argument persuades us that the cons aren't as bad. Many people enjoy the idea of collaboration and being more knowledgeable, which is the main reason why and how Louise Pratt builds her audience. However, I personally believe that this type of thinking is an idealistic approach – all pros no cons. Simply, there will always be a con in some shape or form because