

Working Thesis:

The novel "There There" by Tommy Orange can be interpreted as a reflection of the urban Native American experience, highlighting the complexities of identity, cultural adaptation, and survival within the context of Native urban hubs. The novel portrays characters who navigate the intersection of traditional indigenous heritage and contemporary urban life, showcasing the ways in which urbanization impacts Native American communities and their efforts to resist assimilation while maintaining their cultural connections.

Annotated List of Literary Criticism:

Source:

Rice, David A. "Witchery, Indigenous Resistance, and Urban Space in Leslie Marmon Silko's Ceremony." *Studies in American Indian Literatures*, vol. 17, no. 4, 2005, pp. 114–43.

JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20737306>. Accessed 18 July 2023.

Summary: This article explores the relationship between American Indian literary nationalism and the experiences of urban Indians. David analyzes how contemporary Native American literature reflects the complexities of urban life for Native Americans and how it challenges the dominant narratives of Native identity. He discusses how urban hubs act as centers of activism and cultural adaptation, shaping a fluidly defined community that combats alienation and provides support.

Comparison/Contrast: David's work aligns with the themes presented in the essay that examines urban hubs as activist community centers. While he delves into the literary expressions of urban Indian experiences, the essay focuses on the role of teaching American Indian literature and incorporating online resources in understanding urban Native hubs.

Relevance to Thesis: David's exploration of urban Indian experiences and literary representations provides insights into the complexities of identity and survival in urban settings. It connects to the thesis by demonstrating how literature can reflect the challenges and adaptations faced by Native communities in urban environments.

Source:

Herman, Matthew. "Four More Indigenous Projects for the Native American Humanities." *Studies in American Indian Literatures*, vol. 31, no. 1–2, 2019, pp. 31–53. JSTOR, <https://doi.org/10.5250/studamerindilite.31.1-2.0031>. Accessed 18 July 2023.

Summary: This article delves into the history of the Phoenix Indian School and its role in the education and assimilation of Native American students. It discusses how the school's urban location impacted Native students and their sense of identity, both in relation to their indigenous heritage and within the larger urban context.

Comparison/Contrast: While Matthew's work focuses on the historical context of the Phoenix Indian School, it provides insights into the experiences of Native Americans in urban areas during a specific period. In contrast, the essay concentrates on contemporary urban Indian experiences as portrayed in "There There."

Relevance to Thesis: Matthew's examination of urban Indian experiences in the historical context helps contextualize the challenges faced by contemporary urban Native Americans. It offers historical perspectives on assimilation and cultural adaptation, which can be valuable in understanding the themes in the novel.

Source:

Estrada S. Gabriel. "Native Avatars, Online Hubs, and Urban Indian Literature." *Studies in American Indian Literatures*, vol. 23, no. 2, 2011, pp. 48–70. JSTOR, <https://doi.org/10.5250/studamerindilite.23.2.0048>. Accessed 18 July 2023.

Summary: In this essay from *Decolonizing Methodologies*, Estrada presents twenty-five actual Indigenous projects that perform decolonization by supporting Indigenous knowledge and values. The projects utilize Indigenous collaboration and control in knowledge production, application, and distribution to challenge dominant narratives and center Indigenous voices.

Comparison/Contrast: Estrada's essay offers a broader perspective on decolonization as a performative process and provides specific examples of Indigenous projects working towards this goal. In contrast, the essay interprets the novel "There There" through the lens of the urban Native American experience.

Relevance to Thesis: Estrada's essay on Indigenous projects aligns with the theme of resistance and cultural adaptation in the novel "There There." It highlights the importance of centering Indigenous knowledge and voices in urban settings, resonating with the themes of identity and survival portrayed in the novel.