Core 1: Weekly Response Week #10

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Due in hard copy and/or on turnitin.com the first discussion section class following lecture.

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Within the reading, “Where Worlds Collide” by Pico Iyer, the author stresses the idea of a natural consistency between varying cultures. Wherever you are located within the world, there will be certain customs and traditions which can be understood by any individual and have similar functions/ associated meanings. This is presented through his example of the Los Angeles International Airport where a vast array of unique peoples and cultures can congregate and share new experiences. Iyer demonstrates the differences within this quotation, “They see Koreans piling into the Taeguk Airport Shuttle and the Seoul Shuttle, which will take them to Koreatown without their ever feeling they've left home; they see newcomers from the Middle East disappearing under the Arabic script of the Sahara Shuttle. They see fast-talking, finger-snapping, palm-slapping jive artists straight from their TV screens shouting incomprehensible slogans about deals, destinations, and drugs. Over there is a block-long white limo, a Lincoln Continental, and, over there, a black Chevy Blazer with Mexican stickers all over its windows, being towed” (Iyer 50). All of these sights are not exclusive to specific events or gatherings within LAX, but occur on a daily basis. We can see though the statement the key differences in common behavior, language, traditional clothing styles as well as the cars that are preferred. If you look closely enough, you will be able to analyze every aspect of these differences and take note of its impact on their relations with others and how it can change certain meanings. These individuals come to the U.S to seek a better life or even fame and fortune as it is advertised as a real possibility for anyone. LAX understands it’s large and varying audience and strives to accommodate these individuals by having signs displayed in numerous languages so that everyone can understand it and feel welcome. Since traveling is not always an option as there can be restrictions due to costs, time, and employment, one can easily experience the world in their own backyard by going to the LAX airport. Within Michel de Certeau’s “Spatial Stories”, Certeau emphasizes the ability of stories and how they can prove to document space and time. Essentially, by following standard conventions of providing context such as “Guess who I met at the Bakery” or even “Khomeini is becoming increasingly isolated” (Certeau 116), we are setting our own boundaries for which we can focus our attention on and branch new ideas from within that specific area. It is essentially a prepatory stage for the reader/audience to basically either scrap ideas that are irrelevant to the story/data, or try to draw more connections in order to move that idea into the defined boundaries. This is what Certeau defines by using the terms frontiers and bridges. Take for example certain ideas/concepts which may be plausible, but cannot be realistically tested or observed but nevertheless still gain a large following by passionate individuals who have defined special boundaries for their theories or new concepts.