**Critical Reading Assignment**

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**First, SKIM the piece below “I’m a Banana and Proud of It” by Wayson Choy (see below), then answer the following questions in full sentences**

1. What are some of the clues that helped you find out about this piece before you read it in detail?

I can pre-read the article to find what the subject or purpose that author is trying to tell the target audience. Furthermore, I can identify the information trustworthiness levels by knowing where the information comes from.

1. Are there some words and references that you are not familiar with?

Yes, there are some words that I’m not familiar with, such as banana. It seems weird to describe how people identify as bananas. But when I finished reading the article, I realized that is an analogy for describing people who look Asian. But they were born and raised in North America and know more western culture than Asian culture.

**Then, READ THE PIECE IN MORE DETAIL and answer the remaining questions in full sentences:**

1. What is the purpose of this piece of writing? (Is it informative, persuasive, expressive, entertaining, or a combination of some of these?) Explain why you think so.

I think this writing piece is full of expressiveness and information, and I’ll discuss more in the following sentence. The author wrote about his own story and struggle with his own species identification. At the end, he tells readers how he identifies a banana, and he accepts the being paradox both Chinese and not Chinese. It gives me a lot of information and mind-shock. I have the same background and situation as him. So I can feel his struggle and the message he wants to show to the readers.

1. Who is the audience for this piece of writing? Why do you think so?

I think the audience is the plenty of immigrant citizens or the second generation whose family moves to a new country. Everyone always wants to figure out where the place belongs. So this article clearly shows the author as a second generation immigrant how he finds his identity.

1. Does it use the right tone for that audience (e.g. formal, informal, technical or colloquial)? Explain why you think so, with examples.

I think the author used a colloquial tone to write the article. For example, the author uses banana to metaphorically assume the species. It is not an appropriate way to say it in formal tones. Another example of how I think the author uses a colloquial tone. The author uses some funny way to describe things such as “No longer aliens, we became legal citizens of North America.” He uses the aliens to describe at that time their awkward society situation and how the public saw them.

1. Discuss the structure of the piece: Which paragraph(s) contain(s) the introduction, the body and the conclusion? Could there be more than one interpretation of the divisions between the various parts of this piece? Discuss.

I believe the piece structures are as follows: introduction, body, and conclusion. To begin, the author recounts his background and uses fruit and species metaphors. Then he describes more specifically how he distinguishes a banana. Finally, he accepts his dual identity as Chinese and non-Chinese. Is the body of the essay divided into sections? If so, what paragraphs belong in each section, and what idea does each section focus on?

1. In a few sentences, summarize the author’s main point(s) and supporting argument(s) in this essay. What is the single most important idea that the author is trying to communicate?

There’s plenty of immigrant identity issues, what every immigrant will face, and the best way to know where you come from. You need to find your roots, and the author spent his vacation researching the Chinatown histories and documents. Finally, he finds the conflicts trapped within himself and realizes what his human being is.

1. Does the author's main point apply in any way to your own life experience? If so, how?

Yes, it does. There are some main points that apply to my own life experience, and I totally agree with the way the author tries to solve his conflicts trapped. Always know where you come from and your roots. Then you can face the identity issue.