

English 12 First Peoples: Response to Texts

Scale: 3

Comment:

This paper was awarded a 3. References are present but do not always address the topic. Informal language is commonly presented. The analysis of the passages is weak.

Such books and short stories as “Keeper ’n Me” and “Monkey Beach” are pieces of literature that respond to the domination of the Native community by the white one. “Keeper ’n Me” tells the story of a young man who is returning to his Native reserve after twenty three year’s away. Taken by a social worker and put into a white family he was raised up in their society. So he is forien to the Native culture. He is shocked by what he see’s when he arrives at the reserve, shabby buildings that are lopsided with old car broken down in front yards. No septic system so they have outhouse behind thier homes. This does not sound like Canada but it is on some reserves where the government has not invest proper funding for these reserves. The main character’s brother tells how the Native Culture is being lost to white culture and he is trying to teach the Native Children and teen’s the traditional way’s of the First Nation Culture.

The Novel “Monkey Beach” is also a story about a White domination in a less direct way. Lisa is a girl who lives on a reserve on British Columbia’s North coast, who has a troubled upbring. Her grandmother teachers her traditional way’s when all the other kids just want to play sport’s and do other stuff. Thier reserve is close to a village and is not rundown like the other one, but thier is still a high level of drinking and drugs in the village. She has troubled upbringing with a lot of death’s in her family. Starting with her Uncle who drown’s and is eaten by seals to her grandmother who is burned alive while she has a heart attack. These two stories tell you of the conditions on reserves that the Whites put the Natives on.

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Scale: 3

Comment:

This paper was awarded a 3. The development of ideas is incomplete. The sentence structure is simplistic and repetitive. Language usage is informal.

Native literature and media is a response to domination of one group over another. This can be seen in works such as “Keeper ’n Me” and “Communications Class”.

In “Keeper ’n Me”, the main character, Garnet, is coming home after being away in the city for a while. The way he is dressed and the way he talks is an example of how the white culture has dominated Native culture. The comparison between Garnet’s afro and his brother’s ponytail is another example of how white society has influenced Garnet.

In “Communications Class”, the narrator is taking a stand against the dominance white society has in the classroom. The narrator says she will write in “your language”, referring to the white man’s language. The narrator is resentful because she is forced to speak English, even when her primary language is Native. The English dominance extends beyond the classroom, into the library as well. The narrator is forced to read “your books”, because there is no sight of any Native lit.

As one can see from these two examples, Native media and literature is often a response to the domination of other groups.

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Scale: 4

Comment:

This paper was awarded a 4. The references are appropriate but limited. Essay structure is clear but unsophisticated.

Literature and media can be wonderful ways to tell nice stories, but they can also be good ways to express your opinion and try to get people to see your point of view. In many ways First Peoples literature, authors write about suppression and domination. It is largely due to the fact that First Peoples have been suppressed from all around the world for many years. Authors choose the topic to get their ideas across and to help make other people understand the importance of the problem of suppression.

There are many examples of the suppression of first people. Thomas King explains one issue in his essay “What is it about us you don’t like”, he tells a metaphoric story about ducks with beautiful feathers and a tricky cyote that decieves them into giving him a bunch of those feathers. The ducks represent the native people being lied to by white people and giving up their land. This is just one example of suppression that has taken place with native people. Residential schools and laws forbidding potlatches are more ways whites have tried to dominate over natives. Through it all and included in all of it lies one of the biggest problems – racism. Thinking you are better then someone because of your culture and the colour of your skin is where the ideas of suppression first build up.

It doesn’t just happen to natives though, it has happened to many first peoples. For instance, in the movie “Rabbit-Proof Fence” it shows how the whites decided to dominate over the aboriginis of Australia. They put the aboriginal children in camps to raise them in a European way and make them follow European customs.

We can continue to study the oppression of different groups but because much of the racism and problems have continued, we need to learn from the problems and try to solve the issues that are still here.

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Scale: 4

Comment:

This paper was awarded a 4. The ideas are presented in a straightforward manner. At times, it digresses from analysis to personal opinion.

The literature and other media of First Peoples is often a response to the domination of one group over another. First Peoples have felt very unwanted and mistreated in their past.

First Peoples have experienced extreme hatred and racism. After watching "Rabbit-Proof Fence", this statement becomes obvious. This film shows how the aboriginees were forced to go to residential school, and leave behind their family, culture, and everything else they grew up with. Molly, Daisy, and Gracie were taken away from home. They were brought to a school so they could have the aboriginee bred out of them. They were no longer allowed to speak their language. They were forced to go to church, and say their prayers. Mr. Neville believed that after three generations, the aboriginee culture would no longer be obviously seen. It's awful to think that aboriginee people were hated so much, white people were trying to diminish them and their culture. Aboriginee people had no say in what happened to their families. They had to accept their fate, or live in grief. The aboriginee tracker for the residential school had a daughter that was taken from him. As much as he hated having to perform his job duties, he did it to stay with his daughter. He was offered a chance to go home, but was not given the opportunity to take his daughter with him. In this film, Aboriginees are victims of extreme racism and prejudice.

In the past, First Nations have been treated very poorly. This is obvious in the short story "What Is It About Us You Don't Like". This story recounts how First Nations were stripped of their rights, their land, and their culture. They had their children taken away. Their potlach ceremonies were banned. Their land was not even considered to be theirs anymore. Thomas King uses a great anecdote to show the torture that the First Nations were put through.

First Peoples have had an extreme amount of discrimination shown to them. Even though the government has apologized, they will continue to feel the pain that was forced upon them. Non-First Nations dominated them, their culture, and their families.

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Scale: 4

Comment:

This paper was awarded a 4. Understanding of texts tends to be literal and superficial. Writing is straightforward; errors are not distracting.

The literature of First Nation peoples is often an example of the domination of one group over another. On both “Kiss of the Fur Queen” and “Rabbit Proof Fence” there are many negative details on the treatment received by native people from others trying to assimilate and “take the indian out of the indian”. In both passages rights of one were aggressively destroyed, and innocent people were forced into an unknown environment.

In “Kiss of the Fur Queen” native Canadian children were taken from their homes at a young age, and sent to residential schools all over the country. The main reason for this was to assimilate the natives to be the same as any other caucasian individual. At these schools, students were forbidden to speak their mother tongue and had to give up their original beliefs and replace them with the western christian views. In some cases, students also experienced several forms of abuse, and the Canadian Government is still paying recognition for this unrightful situation.

In “Rabbit Proof Fence” the situation is much more the same as in “Kiss of the Fur Queen” except that the setting is in Australia. It also consisted of ‘white’ people invading the life of the natives in hope to change them and slowly make them the same as the general public. These First Nations were encouraged to marry and have children with others of the caucasian race; the outcome obviously being that there would be less natives in the world.

In my views, the events from both passages are as extreme invasion in one’s rights and morals and I feel privilaged to have read the recorded events from such a time. It is also understood that although most recorded events were negative, there were also positive outlooks from residential schools.

English 12 First Peoples: Response to Texts

Scale: 5

Comment:

This paper was awarded a 5. The ideas are clearly and logically presented. References to *Keeper 'n Me* illustrate a slight misunderstanding; however references to *Monkey Beach* reveal insight.

Sharing stories is a large piece of First Peoples' culture. Before their languages could be written, stories of all sorts were passed down in families and communities. This was and is the First Peoples' means of expressing their feelings and history. When white European culture arrived on First Peoples' land, the Natives were subjected to embarrassments, beatings, slavery, and much pain. From that point on, First Peoples became accustomed to being dominated by other groups. They used their gift of storytelling to communicate their thoughts on the state of their people. First Nations use their literature and media as a response to the domination of one group over another.

Monkey Beach, by Eden Robinson, is an excellent example of a novel showing the implications of abuse and cultural domination. It is clear that abuse is a monstrous issue in Monkey Beach. The characters who are exposed to abuse become different, and sometimes they become abusive themselves. A character, named Josh, was abused at his Residential School and went on to hurt his relatives in the same way. Additionally, examples of racism in Monkey Beach demonstrate that it is common for one race to feel superior over another. The protagonist of the novel, Lisa, was nearly taken by a rowdy of white males. Had a daunting man not come to her rescue, Lisa could have been hurt or killed.

"Keeper 'n Me" also shows how the domination of white people over Natives can create serious ramifications. The protagonist of "Keeper 'n Me" lived in white society, but he felt so out of place that he left. He was not happy with white society, and the author shows what loneliness can lead to. The protagonist left and travelled to his childhood reserve in an attempt to belong. Additionally, the story shows that white people, in their position of domination, have not been friendly with Native people. The protagonist did not feel as an equal to those around him, so he left for something better. Sadly, Natives have experienced much suffering under the powerful white society.

It is natural for wars and disagreements to exist on the earth. For many years, the First Peoples have lived amongst white people in a dysfunctional manner. Through sheer number, white people dominate over the Natives and make matters difficult for them. Through literature and media, the First Peoples communicate their points of view and opinions on the position of their people. Not all lessons must be given through wars and violence, and the First Peoples show their knowledge of this through their ability to fight with words and personal expressions.

English 12 First Peoples: Response to Texts

Scale: 5

Comment:

This paper was awarded a 5. The analysis includes convincing references. Although it provides a detailed discussion of the topic, the writing lacks precision and control.

There are many rich and wonderful themes connected to the First Nations people. Many Aboriginal works share ideas about nature, family and culture and yet there are still a great number about racism and domination. We, as Canadians, pride ourselves as being great supporters of diversity, and yet this hasn't always been the case. There was once a time when many white Canadians' main objective was to make Canada just like them: white. Domination of other groups and culture was considered important. Domination of one group in particular was considered so important that schools were built to insure this goal. Much of the literature and other media of First Peoples such as Rabbit-Proof Fence and Kooper Island, is often a response to this type of domination, the domination of one group over another.

In the film Rabbit-Proof Fence we watch as three young girls cross the Australian desert to return home after escaping from a residential school. In this movie the residential schools exist to "make" aboriginal children white. The intention of the school is to dominate over the Aboriginal people so much that it eventually will no longer exist. The three young girls wish is to return home where they can be with their mothers and return to their own way of living, to their culture. Through out the movie the man in charge of the school makes his best effort to capture the girls and bring them back to the school to fulfill his duty. The girls are not captured. In this work the attempted domination of these three young girls and the failure of this attempt is relative to the whole Aboriginal culture. No matter how much we have tried in the past to dominate them, the girls will always make their way home, their way back to their culture.

Similarly to Rabbit Proof Fence, the documentary Kooper Island deals with the issue of domination by discussing residential schools. This film, however, does not focus on what happened in residential school more then it does what has happened after the fact. Kooper Island follows and shows the life of past residential school students. The past students retell what happened to them in the schools and how it has been affecting their present life. These students have decided to come together and begin the healing process. They resort back to traditional ways of dealing with their problems and feelings. These students have once again found their culture even with the best efforts of the past white man.

Both of these works touch on the subject of domination, more specifically the attempted domination over their own people. However, in both these works we see these attempts fail. These movies are here to show the rest of the world just how strong one's own culture can be. Even after decades of hurt and pain

the First Peoples stories and traditions are still a very strong force in their lives no matter how “dominated” past forces have tried to make them. They are in fact, dominating domination.

English 12 First Peoples: Response to Texts

Scale: 5

Comment:

This paper was awarded a 5. It includes convincing references. Ideas are presented succinctly. The response is not error free although it is generally well written.

Through the works of first nation's people the expression of compressed feelings becomes visible. In First People's works such as "Rabbit-Proof fence" and "Kiss the fur queen" the anguish of being dominated over becomes apparent. The characters in these two stories experienced the killing of their culture, assimilation, and unfair treatment of their people.

In both "Rabbit-Proof Fence" and "Kiss of the Fur Queen" the characters are sent to residential school. The dominating culture took the children from their homes and forced them to go to residential school in attempt to Europeanize the children. The children in "Kiss the fur Queen" were stripped of their hair, language, and clothes, leaving them uncomfortable and forced in to a European society. The culture and language of the first peoples was robbed from them by the European culture.

Throughout the two texts, assimilation of the First People is evident. In the movie "Rabbit Proof Fence" the authorities feel that they should breed out the natives. They planned to marry the native children to caucasian children in order to wipe out the aboriginal race. In residential schools the children were Europeanized through their dress, and language. Essentially the Indian was attempted to be taken out of the Indian, just how Duncan Campbell Scott wanted it.

Although the children were assimilated into European society, they were in no way treated like European children. The children at residential schools experienced harsh life. We see in "Kiss of the Fur Queen" that the priest is abusing his power and taking pleasure in the young boys. We see in several stories including "Rabbit-Proof fence" that residential schools were so horrific that the children wished and did escape to go home.

Many First People's authors write about the turmoil and experiences thrust upon their people. It is wonderful that these tragic stories are being told so that for generations we will keep the past hurts close to our hearts.

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Scale: 6

Comment:

This paper was awarded a 6. The writing style is effective and demonstrates skillful control of language. Although the analysis of Thomas King's "The Truth About Stories" is sophisticated and includes pertinent references, the lack of detail regarding the "Rabbit-Proof Fence", makes this paper an entry level 6.

A recurring theme in First Nations stories is the domination of one group over another. Often this reflects upon the attempted assimilation of their culture and the discrimination towards them. Though the attempts at assimilation have become less flaunted, and discrimination is not as rampant, the effects of the many years of suffering has left a permanent scar or wound on First Nations culture and society.

Assimilation is a theme often seen in many First Nations stories. Stories telling of legislature made to legalize them out of existence, telling of violence and force used to give the society no choice but to adapt to white culture, or stories telling of the effects residential schools had on their culture. Legislation is a large part in the attempted domination of the First Peoples culture. Laws were created simply to wipe the society from the planet. The Indian act was one of these laws, which in essence "told who could be an Indian" according to Thomas King. He goes over many different legislatures in his story "What Is It About Us You Don't Like?", while also stating that "there is no Italian act, no Russian Act" in order to explain how greatly the culture has been attacked compared to other non-English cultures that arrived.

Residential schools are also vastly mentioned in First Peoples stories. These schools had such a critical effect on the culture, children were stripped of it and parents were enraged and lost to their children who knew nothing but white culture. These generations, or the "broken generations" as speaker Ivy Chelsea explained, are a reason as to the weakened state of Native culture and the near loss of many of the Native languages. These schools caused pain and damage that is to be evident for years to come even now. Canada and the United States were not the only nations with these programs. Australia also has a program such as residential schools, although they seemed more like internment camps as seen on Rabbit Proof Fence.

As time progresses the damage done to the First Nations people will, with hope, become healed and the culture will again flourish. Perhaps when that happens, less stories will be written about the attempted domination and assimilation of their culture in exchange for more stories about harmony within each others culture.