The Politics of Identity

**Questions:** Who has the right to claim an identity? Can an author write from a perspective of an identity that is not their own? Why or why not?

1. Read chapter 1 and 2 of *Three Day Road* by Joseph Boyden.
2. After reading these chapters, answer the following plot questions:
	1. What is the setting of these two chapters? Years and location please.
	2. The first section of the book (before chapter one) is possibly foreshadowing. What can you predict about the plot based on this section?
	3. What are the physical and phycological effects of war on Xavier? Be detailed.
	4. In three words each, how would you describe
		1. The Aunt
		2. Elijah
		3. Xavier
3. Read **BOTH** of the following articles:

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/giller-prize-winner-joseph-boydens-indigenous-ancestry-questioned/article33429989/>

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/there-is-room-in-our-circle-for-joseph-boyden/article33467823/>

1. For **ONE** of the articles (you choose), you are to do the following:
	1. Find **three quotes** from the article. Each one will be a
* Point of interest
* Point of value
* Point of question…… to you
	1. You will respond to the quote, explaining your reasoning. Follow my formatting (quotation marks and italics for the quote) See my example below:

For example, the article “Heated Linguistic Debate” could be as follows:

**Point of interest**

“*But by the mid-1980s, Mr. Chay had become aware of a shift in the language — of the growing sentiment that “Oriental” was geocentric, ethnocentric, and disparaging to Asians. It was a rhetorical tool of separation and otherness, he said*.”

I did not realize why the term “Oriental” was not used anymore. I never thought of it; I just knew it was not politically correct. I realize now the term was meant to differentiate people of Asian descent from other Americans in an attempt to isolate as opposed to assimilate. I did some more research on this term and I learned it also includes people from the Middle East. The word “Oriental” means almost anyone East of Europe! That is a broad categorization.

**Point of Value**

“*And, she said, the damage has been documented. A decade ago, the American Psychological Association recommended the immediate retirement of Native American mascots and symbols, in part because they appear ‘to have a negative impact on the self-esteem of American Indian children.*’”

As a teacher, this information is valuable to me. It is important for all children to have a positive cultural/self-identity and if this study was done ten years ago, why are more teams not doing the right thing and changing their names?

**Point of Question**

“*In addition, the poll — a survey of 504 people across the country — found that more than 70 percent of those questioned said they did not consider “redskin” to be disrespectful to Native Americans.”*

I question who these 504 people are. Where do they live? Do they live on reserve or off reserve? I wonder how the polling company found these people because many may have been contacted by the Redskin Football franchise after they made the video to participate in the survey. I also question if these people knew the historical background of the name and why others were offended. Would it change their mind if they were more educated on the subject?