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The Individual and Group Dynamics in Alexie's The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian

Kat Aylesworth Trinity University

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UNDERSTANDING BY DESIGN

Unit Cover Page

Unit Title: The Individual and Group Dynamics in Alexie's The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian

Grade Level: 11th

Subject/Topic Area(s): English/Language Arts

Designed By: Kat Aylesworth

Time Frame: 25 55-minute class periods

School District: Baltimore City School Systems

School: New Era Academy

School Address and Phone: 2700 Seamon Ave, Baltimore, MD, 21225 410.984.2415

Brief Summary of Unit (Including curricular context and unit goals):

This unit was designed to be the second unit of the school year which means that the students will have had ample practice on writing body paragraphs but will need a lot of work on organizing ideas, building writing stamina, and formatting a complete paper. This unit places a heavy emphasis on finding and using textual evidence to support wider claims. It is the first step in the process and will serve as a foundation for the rest of the year.

Students will learn these skills while coming to an understanding about group dynamics and the place of the individual within a larger community through the context of Sherman Alexie's *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*.

Many of the ideas on how to teach the writing process as it pertains to the standard analytical essay comes from Michael Degen's *Crafting Expository Argument: Practical Approaches to the Writing Process for Students and Teachers.*

Stage 1 – Desired Results

Established Goals

CCSS.W.11-12.1 W.11-12.1. Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

CCSS.W.11-12.4.
Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience

CCSS.RL.11-12.1. Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.

CCSS.RL.11-12.3.
Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama.

Transfer

Students will independently use their learning to...

- write a literary analysis paper reflecting on Sherman Alexie's use of group dynamics in the novel *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*.
- create a photo collage in which they identify their group allegiances, show artifacts of membership, and interview an outsider and insider of their identified group.

Meaning

Understandings Students will understand that....

- each of us belong to a wide array of groups
- our group identification impacts our view of self
- our personal choices affect our group membership
- writing add a personal voice to the literary discussion
- "life is a constant struggle between being an individual and being a member of the community."

Essential Questions

- What does it mean to be part of a group?
- What securities do being a group member offer?
- What limitations do being in a group hold?
- To what extent can we change our group allegiances?
- How does literature about groups apply to my place in the world?

Knowledge Students will know...

- the correct form to write an analytical paper
- the impact of including graphics in a novel
- their own allegiances and group memberships
- statistics and information relating to their group and to Native Americans

Acquisition Skills

Students will be able to...

- write a thesis statement
- write organized paragraphs
- cite in-text quotation in MLA format
- complete a literary analysis paper
- write a meaningful conclusion

		Stage 2 – Evidence
CODE (M or T)	Evaluative Criteria (for rubric)	
Т	General Photos Quotes Oral Presentation	Performance Task(s) Students will demonstrate meaning-making and transfer by 1. Photo Collage (video project if resources are available)-Students (S) select a group to which they feel allegiance (leaving out neighborhood and gangs). S then create a photo collage of images that represent their group experience and include the positives and negatives of such membership. Collage must also include quotations from insiders and outsiders of group. S also give a brief oral presentation.
Т	Concise Thesis Statement Paragraph Structure Conclusion Paragraph	2. Analytical paper-S write a standard five paragraph paper with a focus on writing a thesis statement, conclusion paragraph, and body paragraphs with topic sentences. The papers will focus on the group's effects on, support of, and limits on the individual in <i>Part-Time Indian</i> . The essay needs to connect back to the photo collage in order to draw a broader conclusion
M A/M A/M A/M	Citation Use Knowledge of structure Use of writing conventions	Other Evidence (e.g., formative) Reading Quizzes (pop and prepared) Response to Literature (TrL) assignments with focus on organization Paper Outline Dialectical Notes Graphic Oranizers
		Stage 3 – Learning Plan
CODE (A, M, T)	Students will ha final projects w	Pre-Assessment ill you check students' prior knowledge, skill levels, and potential misconceptions? ave just completed a unit on group think and paragraph structure so their ill show me how much they understand about the writing structure. It talk on the EQs to show their self awareness of issues to be addressed.

	Learning Activities	Progress Monitoring
A/M	Day One-Pre-Assessment	(e.g., formative data)
	Chalk Talk on the EQ's	Teacher monitored
	Brainstorm group memberships that S currently have	chalk talk
	Discuss quote "life is a constant struggle between being"	●RtL
	an individual and being a member of the community."	
	HW-RtL 1(see attached assignment sheet and rubric) -	
	Due Day Two	
	Day Two-Background information	●RtL
	• Turn in RtL 1	
Α	Webquest about reservation life	
	Look at statistics comparing graduation/poverty	
	rates/alcoholism of Native Americans and urban African	
	Americans	
	Mini lesson on who to do in-text citation for websites	
	(In-Text Citation Quick Guide and Practice Sheet)	Dialectical notes
	HW-RtL 2 Due Day Three Day Three Regin Reading	•Guiding questions to
	Day Three-Begin Reading	monitor level of
A/M	• Turn in RtL 2	understanding of
	Introduce book	reading
	Introduce dialectical notes	1.5338
	(Quote/Paraphrase/Inference about individual and	
	group relationship)	
	Teacher lead Read Aloud pages 1-14	
	HW-Read pages 15-24 and answer guiding questions	
	(GQ 1) about relationship with Rowdy and how	•Reading quiz
	reservation life affects Junior/Arnold	Dialectical notes
A/M	Day Four	- Dialectical flotes
	Hand back RtLs 2 so that S can make revisions <i>Due Day</i>	
	Five	
	Quiz over first 24 pages	
	 In partners, read pages 25-36 	●RtL
	 Dialectical notes on positives and negatives of living on 	•Graphic organizer
	the reservation (Quote/Paraphrase/Positive or	- Grapine organizer
A/M/T	Negative/Explanation)	
	Day Five	
	Collect revised RtLs	
	 Read as a play with 3 students taking parts pages 36-43 	
	 Discuss advantages and disadvantages of leaving the 	
	reservation (graphic organizer w/room for quotes-How	Writing assignment
	does dialogue affect characters/plot/story?)	•Guiding questions to
	Outline for RtL	monitor level of
A/M	 Mini lesson on how to do in-text citation for books 	understanding of
	RtL 3- Due Day Seven	reading
	Day Six	. caamb
	Hope assignment (Webster definition, Urban Dictionary)	●T-chart
	definition, personal definition, group definition, mini-	. 5

	T	T
	writing assignment about the importance of hope)	
A	Read as a class pages 44-53 CO 3 with facus on manning and importance of hone	
	 GQ 2 with focus on meaning and importance of hope Day Seven 	
	Turn in RtL 3-share a few sentences at random for	
	positive feedback from class	Graphic organizer
	Read as a class pages 54-66	Grapino organizer
	 Modified T-Chart (difference between whites and 	
A/M	Indians-including text evidence)	
	Day Eight	
	Chart (What Junior learns, how he learns it, text)	
	evidence)	
	Start reading pages 67-81 together as class and fill in	
	chart	
	Students finish reading (10 minutes silent time) on own	•Guiding questions to
	and finish chart	monitor level of
	HW-Hand back RtL 3 and address main patterns seen	understanding of
Α	(Give each student 3 things to fix about his/her	reading
	paragraph) Due Day Ten	•Reading quiz
	Day Nine	●RtL
A/M/T	In partners read pages 82-98	
	• GQ 3	
	Day Ten	
	Quiz Turn in revised paragraphs	
	Turn in revised paragraphsRead pages 99-113	
	 Outline for new paragraph 	
	RtL 4: Write a paragraph comparing Arnold and	
	Penelope. Focus on one of the following topics: family,	Graphic organizer
	addiction, dreams, or limitations. You may pick your	• Grapfile Organizer
	own topic so long as you get teacher approval first.	
	Write a complete paragraph with at least three pieces of	
A/M	textual evidence to support your answer. Due Day	
· · · · · ·	Twelve.	
	Day Eleven	
	• Read pages 114-129	
	• Stop at pages 117, 120, 121, and 128 and fill in the	
	picture description chart. (Describe drawing, style of	
	drawing, subject matter, what the drawing tells us	•Check interview
	about Junior's POV/feelings, quote that supports	questions before using
	drawing, What does the drawing add to the story)Teacher lead for the first two and then S complete	them
Α	rest on their own.	•Guiding questions to
	Day Twelve	monitor level of
	• Turn in RtL 4	understanding of
	Introduce photo collage project	reading
	 Go over the purpose of interview question 	
	To also make the property of the second seco	l

	How to write interview questions	•Quick oral review and
	Read pages 130-149	feedback
A/M	• GQ 4	Dialectical notes
	HW-write interview questions	
	Day Thirteen	
	Review questions written-S share out	Grade practice
	• Read pages 150-168	statements
A/M	 Dialectical notes (Quote/Paraphrase/Inference about individual and group relationship) 	
	Day Fourteen	
	 Introduce thesis statement formula (thesis 	
	=specific/narrow topic + arguable opinion)	
	 Practice writing thesis statements (Give S topics. S come 	
	up with slant. S write thesis statement)	
	 Read pages 169-178 	
	 HW-Write thesis statements on the following topics: 	●RtL
A/M/T	number of tribes in the world, dealing with the grieving	
A/IVI/I	process, use of cartoons in the chapter, Junior's use of	
	lists.	
	Day Fifteen	
	Read description of David and Goliath	
	 Read pages 179-196 with a focus on who is David and 	
	who is Goliath-Rowdy/Arnold or Readon/Wellpinit	
	RtL 5-Readon and Wellpinit have a rematch with Arnold	
	being a top scored for Readon and Rowdy being the	Dialectical notes
	force behind the Wellpinit team. In a one paragraph	
	essay make an argument for who is the David and who	
A/M	is the Goliath in this game. Be sure to support your	
	answer with textual evidence. <i>Due Day Seventeen</i> .	■Test to monitor
	Day Sixteen	understanding of
	Read pages 197-213 Dialectical pates on grief (Who, guete how do they	reading
A/T	 Dialectical notes on grief (Who, quote, how do they show grief, inference about the grieving process/What 	
	affect does this have on characters/plot?)	
	Day Seventeen	
Λ/ T	• Turn in RtL 5	
A/T	Read pages 214-230	
	Take home test <i>Due Day Nineteen</i>	
	Day Eighteen	
	 Day one of Photo Collage presentations 	•Review written thesis
A/T	Introduce final paper	statements-rewrite as
, .	Discuss topics (pick one)	needed
	HW-Write thesis statement	
	Day Nineteen	•Ctudont chacklist
	Day two of Photo Collage presentations	Student checklist Provious written
A/M/T	Go over parts of an introduction (page 118 in Degen's	Review written introduction
	Crafting Expository Argument)	introduction

	HW-write introduction paragraph	paragraphs-rewrite as
	Day Twenty	needed
	 Day three of Photo Collage presentations (if needed) 	Outline
	 Introduction paragraph checklist (based on page 121 of CEA) 	
	 Create topic sentences for body paragraphs 	
	Paper outline	
Т	 Go over how to write a conclusion (parts listed page 122) 	Review written conclusion-rewrite as
	 HW-Revise introduction paragraph; write conclusion paragraph 	needed
	Days Twenty-one, twenty-two, and twenty-three	
	 Computer lab work days to write body paragraphs 	
	Days Twenty-four and Twenty-five	
	Cushion days	

Group Dynamics Analytical Paper

Pick one of the following topics:

- 1. Agree or disagree with Mr. P's advice that Junior needs to leave the rez because everyone there (the Indians and the white teachers included) has already given up. Discuss the implications of group dynamics on the success of the individual. Does Junior need to leave the reservation in order to be successful? What effects does reservation life have on him? What possibilities exist for him if he stays? If he goes?
- 2. How does Junior's use of cartoons show his understanding of racism?
- 3. Junior uses cartoons to talk to the world and because "words are too limited" (Alexie, 5). What do his cartoons show about his place in his community and in the world?
- 4. Junior says that "It sucks to be poor, and it sucks to feel that you *deserve* to be poor. You start believing that you're poor because you're stupid and ugly. And then you start believing that you're stupid and ugly because you're Indian. [...] It's an ugly circle and *there's nothing you can do about it*" (13). Agree or disagree that there is nothing one can do about poverty.
- 5. All of the characters in the novel defy the stereotype of a Native American, yet all are members of the same tribe and life in the same community. Use this novel to define community as it applies to the Spokane Indian reservation.
- 6. How does Rowdy and Arnold's relationship serve as a metaphor for Arnold's feelings about being an Indian and part of the tribe?

Your paper must meet the following requirements:

- 1000 words
- 10 direct quotations cited in MLA format
- Thesis statement (introduction paragraph)
- Five paragraphs (introduction, three body, conclusion)
- Topic sentence in each body paragraph
- Follow given outline

Analytical Essay Writing Rubric

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Introduction	Introduction refers	Introduction	Introduction	Introduction
(15 points)	specifically to the	refers	makes some	makes little
	work, genre, and	specifically to	reference to the	reference to the
	author; addresses	the work, genre,	work, genre, and	work, genre, and
	the topic directly;	and author;	author; attempts	author; poorly
	and has a clear	addresses the,	to address the	addresses the
	thesis statement.	topic; and has a	topic; and has a	topic; and has an
		clear, thesis	fairly clear thesis	unclear thesis
	5	statement.	statement.	statement.
Body	Body paragraphs	Body	Body	Body paragraphs
Paragraphs	contain clear topic	paragraphs	paragraphs	do not sufficiently
(45 points)	sentences,	have topic	support the	support the thesis
	support the thesis, and are	sentences, support the	thesis, attempt to address the	and are not
	exceptionally well	thesis, and are	topic, and are	organized.
	organized.	fairly organized.	fairly organized.	
Conclusion	Conclusion	Conclusion	Conclusion does	Conclusion sums
(15 points)	clearly restates	sums up the	not fully sum up	up the thesis
(10 points)	the thesis,	thesis and	or reinforce the	poorly with little
	reinforces the	reinforces it	thesis.	reinforcement.
	major points and	well.		
	makes a broader			
	statement about			
	the topic.			
Quotations	Quotations are	Quotations are	Quotations and	Quotations and
(15 points)	specific,	specific,	explanations are	explanations are
	sufficient, and	sufficient,	fair and/or	unclear and
	significant; they	reasonably well	insufficient; they	insufficient; they
	are clearly	explained, and	provide some	provide little
	explained,	correctly cited;	support to the	support to the
	connected directly	they support the	thesis. They are	thesis. They are
	to the thesis, and	thesis.	partly cited.	not cited.
Conventions	correctly cited.	On allin a	On allin a	On allin a
Conventions-	Spelling,	Spelling,	Spelling,	Spelling,
Spelling, Grammar and	grammar, and	grammar, and	grammar, and	grammar, and
Punctuation	punctuation are accurate and	punctuation are mostly accurate	punctuation are fair with some	punctuation are poor with frequent
(15 points)	nearly perfect.	with few errors.	obvious errors.	errors that the
(15 points)	Hearry periect.	with lew endis.	obvious errors.	effect meaning of
				paper.
Meets	There are 5 well	There are 5	There are 5	There are less
Guidelines	paragraphs, at	paragraphs,	paragraphs,	than 5
(5 points)	least 1000 words,	close to 10000	over 500 words,	paragraphs, close
	and at least 10	words, and 10	and 6 direct	to 500 words, and
	direct quotations	direct quotations	quotes.	less than 6 direct
	from the novel.	from the novel.	·	quotations.
<u> </u>		from Motortown High		

Adapted from Watertown High School http://www.watertown.k12.ma.us/dept/ela/pdf/EngDeptWritRubric.pdf

Photo Collage Project

1. Pick a group to which you feel a strong allegiance. Refer back to the list of groups we created at the beginning of this unit. You may choose any group (so long as it is school appropriate. i.e.- no gangs or neighborhoods).

For example, you might do a project on being a teenager.

2. Take **photographs** that represent your group. These photographs must show both **positive** and **negative** sides of group adherence. You must have at least 6 photographs.

Positive teenage images: friends, high school, prom, babysitting, freedom etc.

Negative teenage images: rude, spoiled, irresponsible, etc.

3. Interview 2 other members of your group. You will need to ask each person at least five questions pertaining to your group. You are looking to get quotations that add to an outsider's understanding of your group. You will also need to interview two people not in your group in order to show an outsider's point of view of your group and to gain another perspective. You will turn in your interview questions and answers for a separate grade.

Group members: classmates, brothers or sisters (age 13-19), friends, etc.

Non-group members: teachers, church members, parents, etc.

- **4.** Create a **PowerPoint presentation** about your group and your personal membership experience. Your presentation must include the following:
 - Group Title
 - Definition of group in your own words
 - Photographs (6-15)
 - 2 quotes from other group members
 - 2 quotes from non-group members
- **5.** You will have to present your PowerPoint to the class. Your presentation will be graded on the following:
 - Explanation for each photograph
 - Can be heard from the back of the room
 - Eye contact
 - Minimum amount of information on each slide
 - Length of 3-5 minutes
 - Summary of what group membership means to you
 - Benefits and drawbacks of group membership

Photo Collage Project Interview Form

Group:	
Group Member's Name:	
Question One:	
Answer:	
Question Two:	
Answer:	
, will were	
Question Three:	
Answer:	
Question Four	
Answer:	
Question Five:	
Answer:	

Photo Collage Project Interview Form

Non-member's Name:	
Question One:	
Answer:	
Question Two:	
Answer:	
Question Three:	
Answer:	
Question Four	
Answer:	
Question Five:	
Answer:	

Photo Collage Project

Rubric

Slide Show	
/5	Slide with group name and student name
/10	Definition in student's own words
Photographs	
/5	Can be easily seen from back of room (not pixilated or too small)
/5	Minimum of six
/10	Shows a variety of images (buildings, portraits, groups, etc)
/10	Shows positive side of group membership
/10	Shows negative side of group membership
Quotations	
/20	Minimum of four (two positive; two negative)
/10	Adds information or a different perspective to slide show
/5	Correctly punctuated
/5	Cited with full name on slide
/5	Labeled as insider or outsider on slide
/100	Total
Oral Presentat	tion
/5	Speaks clearly (no mumbling, minimum of likes, umms, and pauses)
/5	Projection (can be heard from back of room)
/5	Makes eye contact with audience
/10	Does not read off of projection
/20	Time (3-5 minutes)
/20	Clearly identifies each photograph as positive or negative
/15	Explanations of photograph go into depth (not just describing photo) and explain
	relevance of each photo
/10	Benefits of group membership
/10	Problems arising from group membership
/100	Total

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian Response to Literature

Each Response to Literature (RtL) needs to a well developed paragraph with a topic sentence, supporting evidence (correctly cited if needed), and a concluding sentence. RtL should be a minimum of 500 words and show careful thought, creativity, and effort. Make sure that you full revise your work before submitting it for a grade.

RtL One	Due
Personal Group Affiliation (Pre-reading)	
Identify one group of which you are a member. Defir Include membership requirements, what drew/draw towards that group. Then, discuss ways that you struthat group helps you. Be specific. The more details you	rs you to that group, and your general feelings aggle with being a member of that group OR ways
RtL Two	Due
Response to Statistics Using the information you gained during our webque predictions about what life is like on an American Inc statistics that you found interesting. Explain the signit has. Be sure you correctly cite each statistic.	dian reservation. Your RtL must include at least five
RtL Three	Due
Response to pages 1-43 (Personal opinion) Should Junior leave the reservation to go to school? of social support (think friends and family) available will be going into a foreign environment and surroun educational opportunities at each location. Your par evidence with correct citation.	both on the reservation and at the white school. He ided by a hostile group. Also consider the level of
RtL Four	Due
Response to pages 1-133 (Comparision) As Arnold gets to know his crush (Penelope) better, he pick one thing that they have in common and expand following topics: family, addiction, dreams, or limitate teacher approval first. Your paragraph must have at a citation.	ne learns that they have some things in common. d on it. You might consider writing about one of the cion. You may pick your own topic so long as you get
RtL Five	Due
Response to pages 1-196 (Analogy of David and Golia	ath)

Readon (the number two team in the state) and Wellpinit (the number one team in the state) have a rematch with Arnold being a 'secret weapon' for Readon and Rowdy being the force behind the success of the Wellpinit team. Remember: in the last game, Arnold went to the hospital with a concussion and had to get stitches. Continue the analogy of David and Goliath and identify which team is David and which team is Goliath. Your paragraph must have at least three pieces of textual evidence with correct citation.

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian Response to Literature Rubric

		Self	Teacher
		evaluation	evaluation
Topic	Sentence (15 points)		
0	Clearly and concisely introduces topic (5 points)		
0	Expresses a definite point of view (5 points)		
0	Is specific and narrow in focus (5 points)		
Suppo	rting Evidence (50 points)		
0	Includes citation as needed in correct MLA format (5		
	points)		
0	Refers to and supports topic established in first sentence (5		
	points)		
0	Stays on topic (10 points)		
	All details tie in to the topic sentence and stay within the focus.		
0	Makes good use of quotations that add meaning (10 points)		
	Each quotation enhances the reader's understanding of the		
	author's point and helps solidify his/her point.		
0	Shows a clear understanding of topic and text (10 points)		
0	Shows a depth of understanding (5 points)		
	Writer does beyond a surface level of thought and pushes		
	him/herself in thinking about the topic.		
0	Has NO plot summary (5 points)		
	All evidence needs to support the topic. Write as if the reader		
Conclu	has a working understanding of your topic. sion (10 points)		
	` 2 '		
0	Is not a summary (5 points) Shows greater importance of tonic (5 points)		
0	Shows greater importance of topic (5 points) Writer makes a connection to something outside the text or		
	draws a deeper conclusion about the importance of this topic		
	outside of this text.		
Writir	ng Conventions (25 points)		
0	Shows evidence of careful thought (5 points)		
0	Creativity (5 points)		
0	Effort (5 points)		
0	Mechanics (10 points)		
	 Spelling, punctuation, grammar does not get in the way 		
	of the reader's understanding		
	 Sentence structure adds to reader's understanding 		
Bonus	Ü		
0	Typed (5 points)		
Total	(100 points)		
Notes			

Notes

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian

Webquest

In preparation for reading Sherman Alexie's novel *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, we need to be better informed about many of the issues facing Junior, the main character. Many of those issues stem from the fact that he is an American Indian living on a reservation.

Your job is to gather information about American Indians, the reservation system, statistics, and anything of significance. You will be using this information to write a paper, so use your time wisely.

Indian Affairs (Official Government organization) http://www.bia.gov/FAQs/index.htm
Cite Name:
Author of site:
Last update of site:
Date of visit to site:
What is an Indian reservation? (Put definition in your own words)
Who controls/governs the reservations?
Why is that important?
Map - http://www.howling-wolf.org/Indian Reservations/today.html Cite Name: Author of site: Last update of site: Date of visit to site: Where are the majority of reservations located?
Why do you think that is?

Reservation System http://xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/incorp/native/reservation.html Cite Name: Author of site: Last update of site: Date of visit to site:
Historically, what have been some problems with the reservation system? List at least three • • • •
Health Information http://facts.kff.org/results.aspx?view=slides&topic=70&start=1#=4 Cite Name:
Author of site: Last update of site:
Date of visit to site:
List three statistics about the health of or the health care available to American Indians. • • • •
What do these statistics tell you about the quality of life for American Indians? Write in complete sentences.
Education and Health Information http://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/templates/browse.aspx?lvl=2&lvlID=52
Cite Name:
Author of site:
Last update of site:
Date of visit to site: Find five statistics that stick out to you. List them below in your own words.
• What do these statistics tell you about the quality of life for American Indians? Write in complete sentences.