

Discussion Questions

Mihesuah – “Introduction”

1. The author states “The problem with many books and articles about Indians is not with what is included but with what is omitted.” (p 4) Explain what is meant by this and why.
2. Why would tribes need to adopt “research guidelines?”

Mihesuah – “American Indian Studies Is For Everyone” by Duane Champagne

1. If research on American Indians is regulated, how does the author suggest that might happen?
2. Why is the article entitled, “American Indian Studies Is For Everyone?” What are the similarities and differences between non-Indian researchers and Indian researchers?

Mihesuah – “Cultural Imperialism and Marketing of Native America” by Laurie Ann Whitt

1. What is meant by the term “cultural imperialism” in the chapter by Laurie Ann Whitt?
2. What is the controversy between American Indians and the “New Age” practices?
3. What are the issues around “marketing” in regards to American Indians?

Mihesuah – “American Indian History or Non-Indian Perceptions of American Indian History?” by Angela Cavender Wilson

1. Why does the author ask “When the topic of writing about Indians comes up the first questions that come to mind are who is doing the writing? Why?”

Mihesuah – “Ethics and Responsibility in Writing American Indian History” by Donald Fixico

1. As noted by the author, what are some of the professional ethics and scholarly responsibilities in “researching, writing and teaching of American Indian History . . .?”
2. Why has American Indian History been thought of as Indian-White relations and what are the ramifications of this?

Mihesuah – “American Indian Intellectualism and the New Indian Story” by Elizabeth Cook Lynn

1. In what way does the author write that storytelling of American Indians has been told?
2. In what ways have American Indians been seen as “intellectuals” and in what ways have they not?

Mihesuah – “Grandmother to Granddaughter: Generations of Oral History in a Dakota Family” by Angela Cavender Wilson

1. The author states, “It is through the stories of my grandmother, my grandmother’s grandmother, and my grandmother’s grandmother’s grandmother and their lives that I learned what it means to be a Dakota woman, . . .” (p27) What did the author mean by this statement as presented in the reading?