

The assignment is:

Paragraph Reflection on: The Standing Rock resistance and our fight for indigenous rights/Tara Houska, a TED Talk.

Student's Response:

"Tara is of Couchiching First Nation, her clan is Bear. Growing up, Tara experienced a lot of racism and oppression towards her and her people due to the racist imagery represented and advertised in the media, sports, textbooks, etc., of Native Americans. When Tara arrived at Standing Rock, she felt the energy and power of resistance and strength the entire tribe acquired. Even in recent years, police have tried to strip Natives of their land and culture. Tara witnessed perseverance, everyone came together with human resistance and stood as one and positive changes occurred. We as people work better together, and ending racism, oppression of all sorts, has to start within our schools, for education is the foundation and is what shapes children into becoming who they are because we are all a product of our surroundings. If we aren't being taught the right lessons in schools, how will any of this begin to end? It's very important that we are all educated on different cultures and our country's history of oppression and genocide so our children and their children after that will be taught to love everyone equally and always treat everyone with respect and empathy."

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