

### **Document 1:**

- Illinois making Native American history compulsory in K-12 education (Native American History bill) > question of cultural heritage, acknowledgment of past sufferings (ex: forced relocation, genocide) and recognition of tribal sovereignty
- Recognition of the past but also the participation in the present of the country's culture (pb of invisibility\*) > ex: contributions to the Arts, Sciences... / real demographic importance today (ex: 175 tribes represented in Chicago only today and not living in reservations but in the midst of the American population\*)
- Issue of ongoing stereotypes against Native Americans (ex: dropouts) that can be fought against through first-hand accounts > program developed in consultation with Chicago American Indian community
- One step in education but still no federal recognition of tribal land
- Seat on the State Board of Education's equity committee = cultural recognition + a say in the matter/official recognition of their voice

### **Document 2:**

- Supreme Court ruling protecting the Indian Child Welfare Act => protection of Native rights and of their culture
- Importance of this act to uphold tribal sovereignty and stabilize Native communities by maintaining Indian children within their communities > question of recognition of rights + cultural heritage which can pass on from one generation to the next
- Recognition of past failures of the Supreme Court that has often denied Natives justice => symbolic strong gesture to ensure longevity ("resist fading into the twilight of history") and recognition

### **Document 3:**

- New Scorsese film about Indian genocide in Oklahoma > denunciation on screen of the past atrocities the Indian communities suffered from (attempted eradication, forced assimilation, purposeful decimation of their traditional ways of life)
- Importance of talking about it in front of today's "lingering effects of colonialism" > ex: "we die younger, experience inordinate violence and suffer disproportionate rates of poverty, disease, addiction and suicide"
- Undeniable step forward in the representation on screen of Native struggles with such a renowned film maker = achieving true visibility
- But not told from the Native perspective and not everything is said = sugarcoated version of history

### **Document 4:**

- Assessment of the situation that justifies the need for education programs dealing with Native history:
  - No mentioning in over half of US State of Native Americans
  - Lack visibility of Natives in the media and lack of curiosity about them among average Americans
  - Perpetuation of false narratives and toxic stereotypes in the media
  - Lack of interest in the fate of Natives

### **Document 5:**

- Example of the still ongoing denial of tribal sovereignty with exploitation of their sacred lands in Alaska without their consent (parallel with the denunciation of the oil thefts referred to in Scorsese's film)

➤ **Possible outline:**

- 1) Native Americans today are still plagued by the remnants of colonialism and fight for the recognition of their past and present sufferings to preserve their future.

*In the recognition of Native rights lies their survival, but how to achieve it?*

- 2) Today, significant steps have been made to their cultural recognition to preserve their identity, and legal triumphs have ensured their rights and tribal sovereignty.

*Yet, despite recent improvements and landmark decisions, there remain obstacles to a genuine recognition of Native Americans.*

- 3) True recognition cannot be reached without the first-hand involvement of Native American communities themselves, by giving them a voice and a say in the matters that concern them, and by making sure that they are given equal rights.