ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY

AMERICAN LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

Teachers: Jessica Lorenz, Frances Miklovic, and Maggie Murphy

ASSIGNMENT: Native American Culture and Tradition Foundational Understanding

Please read the **required sections, plus two additional sections** from Anton Treuer's informative question-and-answer text before the first day of classes of the 2026-27 school year.

Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians But Were Afraid to Ask (Young Readers Edition)
by Anton Treuer

Publisher: Levine Querido
ISBN-10: 1646140451
ISBN-13: 978-1646140459

Description:
From the acclaimed Ojibwe author and professor Anton Treuer comes an essential book of questions and answers for Native and non-Native young readers alike. Ranging from "Why is there such a fuss about nonnative people wearing Indian costumes for Halloween?" to "Why is it called a 'traditional Indian fry bread taco'?" to "What's it like for natives who don't look native?" to "Why are Indians so often imagined rather than understood?", and beyond, *Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians But Were Afraid to Ask (Young Readers Edition)* does exactly what its title says for young readers, in a style consistently thoughtful, personal, and engaging.

Required Sections:
You are required to read ALL of these sections:

- Introduction: Ambassador
- Terminology
- History
- Religion, Culture, and Identity
- Education
- Social Activism
- Conclusion: Finding Ways to Make a Difference

Additional Sections:
Please read TWO additional sections from the text that you are interested in or feel called to read:

- POWWW
- Tribal Languages
- Politics
- Economics
- Perspectives

As you read, use the following strategies to **annotate**. You are required to have a minimum of 8-12 annotations per section. Your annotations will be checked for a grade at the beginning of the school year. Remember, highlighting or underlining is NOT annotating. Each mark needs an explanation in the margins:

1. **Comprehension**: Summarize paragraphs, pages, or "chapters" (each question/answer combo would be considered a "chapter") that are challenging to understand or that you find to be important.
2. **Definitions:** Define words that are challenging or new to you
3. **Connections:** Make connections to yourself, other texts, or the world that you find while you read.
4. **Analysis:** As you read, try to determine the author's purpose in creating this text, especially his adaptation for young readers. What does he say that reveals his intentions and message?
5. **Foundational Understandings:** Make note of new understandings and findings you have of the Native American culture.