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Option 3: Literacy History Project For this paper, students will analyze how members of a particular minority community (e.g., indigenous groups in Northern United States) have been affected by the institutionalization of literacy in the United States. Students will examine scholarship that points to literacy practices within this community that are devalued or ignored by formal schooling while considering the strengths of the literacy practices of minority communities. You should also consider how minority communities have used the hegemonic tools of literacy practice to gain access to power.

For this essay format draft I will be talking about the importance of literacy and also describe how literacy is different in every minority community. So far from the readings and videos I have seen from the previous weeks in this class, I think I will be able to talk about the groups and the different experiences they have when it comes to obtaining literacy skills.

When it comes to literacy we see how in every particular group there are different experiences and perspectives. Literacy is having the ability to read and write. And in some communities they have the resources and support to improve their literacy skills. I will be discussing the American Indian and Alaskan Native in the United States. In this particular group, American Indian/Alaskan Natives struggled to improve in school due to lack of support.

There was demographic data obtained from the U.S Department of Education, and it demonstrated how the American Indians and Alaskan Natives are often left out in schools and their enrollment rates are much lower than Whites, Blacks and Hispanics. It is also low when it comes to enrolling into college. In the article, “The Subtle Evolution of Native American Education,” it mentions all the data about Native Americans and what their struggles are when it comes to obtaining literacy and a proper education. It notes, “As the National Education Association noted in a 2010 report, American Indian and Alaska Native students have some of the highest dropout rates in the country. Their poor academic performance in math and reading—even when compared to other traditionally disadvantaged minorities—may help explain the negative perceptions about Native Americans’ educational outcomes, as does their relatively low early-childhood literacy levels.” In early childhood life, Native Americans and other people don’t often practice literacy at home due to personal circumstances. Parents may rely on school and also may be unaware of the importance literacy can have.

Often a lot of schools ignore that they have Native American students and fail to recognize and support them in the school system. But now, there is much more support for them and in schools they are eager to change the data and increase the enrollment rates when it comes to college. The Valley School District is dedicated to support their Native American kids and is eager to help raise their graduation rate, according to a video titled "Education Matters - Native American Student Education." The school offers programs to ensure that students are prepared for college and are aware of what to anticipate. The Valley School District also made sure that their students felt at ease by having people at school who look like them and share their culture. We see how the Native Americans are dressed in the video, and they perform a dance for the students to observe. Native American students at the school will not feel left out or different as a

result of this. Including their culture and support services would increase graduation rates since they would feel more at ease and motivated, which is important while learning to read and write. Furthermore, the school provided resources for its kids, which is significant because many other schools in the United States do not have access to literature.

The condition of Native American students was discussed in an article titled "The Condition of Native American Students," which discussed the statistics of American Indian and Alaskan Native students at the time and how they were struggling. It notes, "Many scholars and Native American educators recommend that schools serving AI/AN communities, regardless of public traditional or public charter, should promote Indigenous identities in the classroom. They also should design curriculum intended to include AI/AN cultures and languages." We can conclude from this that incorporating Indigenous identities and cultures into the school would benefit students greatly and have a significant influence on their ability to acquire reading skills. With the extra support, some students were able to get early college help and also received special help when it came to signing up for scholarships. Students were aware of how important it was to go to college and knew the importance of scholarships as well. Many kids dream big and have careers they want to achieve. They knew that obtaining literacy skills will help them reach their goals.

People are more aware of the importance of literacy and know that doing literacy practices can lead you to many access to power. More students will enroll into college and be successful in the career they want. Native Americans now earn bachelor's degrees and the rate increased from 3,300 to 10,900. Plus, when students go to college and accomplish their dream career goals they are able to find jobs that aren't low pay. Having a degree in college can open

doors and change their future. That's why so many push their students to practice literacy because it will change their life and benefit them long term.

(Working on conclusion but I feel like some parts are repetitive)