

LBST 330 – Fall 2018
Module 2 – Research in Context
Response Paper #1
Maya Azizi
100089813

In relation to my Fields of Interest Assignment point #5, photography and “documentation” plays a large role in my second Tutorial idea regarding First Nations oral histories and traditions into the mainstream public-school system. As mentioned in my Field of Interest Assignment, a group of friends and I started a Junior Youth Empowerment group on the Tsleil-Waututh Nation. Prior to my time working on TWN, I had never worked with or met anyone that identified as First Nations and I had never stepped foot on a reserve. The idea I had of what a Reserve would look and be like was based purely on popular stereotypes and misinformation from others (ie. the media, movies, and school). When I first went on the reserve, I was shocked at how welcoming and kind everyone was. People would wave and honk at each other, say hello from their balconies, and run down the hill to hug a friend. Never had I seen a community so tight-knit and loving. Below are some photos from my first two weeks working with the youth from the Tsleil-Waututh Nation. (Everyone in the photos and either parent/ guardian signed a photo release form.)





As Berger mentioned in the reading, “the way we see things is affected by what we know or what we believe.” (Berger, 8). Coming in to a First Nations community for the first time, I wanted to eliminate as many stereotypes or ideas I may have had previous to seeing things for the first time myself. I did not want to have any biases going into a community as resilient as theirs and I did not want the way I saw them to be affected by something as trivial as the media and their portrayal of First Nations people and Reserves. While workshopping my Fields of Interest Assignment with classmates, one classmate who identifies as First Nations suggested I focus my final project around this very notion and my time working on a reserve without ever having known a First Nations person or stepping foot on the Reserve. He also suggested I read a novel by author Thomas King, titled “The Inconvenient Indian”.