



Handout 1 - Questions for Document Sets

Document Set 1: Native American Protests and Occupations in the 1970s

1. What sort of issues were Native Americans concerned with in their protests? How were these concerns similar or different to those made by people like Martin Luther King, Jr.?
2. Where did these groups stage their protests? Why might these places be historically important to Native Americans?
3. How might have these protests served to raise awareness of Native American issues? What might have a non-native hearing about these protests in the news have learned? .
4. Are these protests similar in style to any other you might know about?

Document Set 2: Song Lyrics

1. What story is Buffy Sainte-Marie telling in the lyrics of “My country ‘tis of thy people you’re dying”? What moments of history might the lyrics be touching upon?
2. What story is Peter LaFarge telling in “The Senecas”?
3. What story is Johnny Cash telling in “The Ballad of Ira Hayes”?
4. What do you think the purpose or function of these songs might be? Do they differ in function, or do you think they all hold similar functions?
5. Why might some people view lyrics such as these as “dangerous” or “subversive”?

Document Set 3: Government Response

1. Why might have DJs not played Johnny Cash’s album Bitter Tears?
2. What are some of the arguments Cash makes for why DJs should play his song “The Ballad of Ira Hayes?” Do you think he makes a convincing argument?
3. What sort of strategies did the FBI use against the American Indian Movement (AIM)? What was their ultimate goal?
4. In the document, how does the FBI justify its activities spying on AIM leaders?
5. According to the news article, why did Native Americans initially protest after the murder of Raymond Yellow Thunder?
6. Why might have Native Americans been gathered in front of the court for the trial on Raymond Yellow Thunder’s Death?