



Sample Activity:
Why Do We Need AP Vertical Teams?

from the Pre-AP workshop

Pre-AP[®]: Instructional Leadership
Through AP Vertical Teams[®]

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Pre-AP: Instructional Leadership Through AP Vertical Teams Sample Activity

Why Do We Need AP Vertical Teams?

In your small groups, discuss the following questions. Select someone to report to the whole group.

1. What are some challenging courses taught in secondary schools today? What are some of the courses that lead to AP courses? What challenging courses are offered in middle schools?
2. What skills, knowledge, and habits of mind must students have to be successful in challenging courses? Are all students taught these skills? Why? Why not?
3. What skills, knowledge, and habits of mind are needed on your state's required exams?
4. The following passage and question are released test materials from the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program. Analyze the questions and determine what skills, knowledge, and habits of mind are needed to answer these questions. Are these the same skills that are mentioned in questions 2 and 3?

Genealogy

I was not raised in the traditional way, and you can ask what right have I got to speak? But the Native American voice is the one I hear when I write. My father's people were Cherokee. I remember him telling me we were Indian. I remember asking, what kind?

My great-grandfather, Woods Lewis, was born in 1843 near Sallisaw, Oklahoma. His name was *Paskwals* or *Pasqua* before he changed it. That's the fragment I have from his granddaughter, my aunt. He got in trouble just before the Civil War and fled Oklahoma Territory. After serving in Company L, Fourth Tennessee Cavalry, he tried to return to Oklahoma, which was still Indian Territory at the time, but word got out, and he had to settle in northern Arkansas, where he farmed until his death in 1904.

My father went north to Kansas City to work in the stock-yards just before the Depression. He buried his heritage as my great-grandfather, and my grandmother, had done. He married a German-English woman and I was raised in the white culture knowing little of my father's heritage. But even in the white schools and churches I attended, I was always asked the inevitable question by teachers. What nationality was I?

They knew I was something other, but they weren't sure what. In some of us, the heritage has been rendered nearly invisible. At least unrecognizable. The voice can't be seen anyway. But I felt it moving in me for years, and it finally found visibility in the written word.

I think I speak for a lot of Native Americans who have mixed blood and who know little of their culture and language. But the heritage shows up now and then like the Indian ancestors, whom I know sometimes, when I wake in the morning, have been there in the night.

Question: Compare how the author views her heritage today to the way her relatives viewed being Native Americans in their time. Use examples from the passage to support your answer.