

WRITING PROMPTS

*After reading Sherman Alexie's book *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, you will be writing a paper on one of the following prompts. Use these as a guide as you are reading the book. Look for parts of the book which will help you support any of these topics. You will need to use evidence from the book for each prompt, so be sure to keep track of page numbers and what is occurring so you will not have to search the book later.*

- In Alexie's book, Junior (Arnold) was certainly not the only person on his reservation to feel trapped, helpless, and hopeless. Why, when others on his reservation have given up, was Junior a survivor? What made him different from the others? Support your argument using specific examples from the book.
- Consider the title of the book, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, and write an essay in which you examine Junior's (Arnold's) struggle for identity. In what ways does his identity change once he attends the white high school, and are there any ways that he remains the same person? How important is his sense of identity? Support your argument using specific examples from the book.
- Although *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* has been classified as a Young Adult novel, it has been banned in multiple school districts across the country. Write an argument in which you make a case for or against banning this book in middle schools or high-schools. Support your argument using specific examples from the book.
- Junior (Arnold) experiences judgement from both his tribe and white society. Throughout the novel he has an opportunity to reflect on these judgements, and the fairness or unfairness of them. Discuss and develop his reflections. What does Arnold learn from these reflections? Use specific examples from the book.