**“Red Eyes” Discussion Questions**

1. Why do you think textbooks write with such certainty about the earliest Americans when there is such controversy over their arrival and early years in the Americas?
2. How do most textbooks define “civilized?” What evidence is there from the reading that the Native Americans were more sophisticated than usually given credit for in the historical narrative?
3. What are some of the myths that textbooks often perpetuate about Native Americans? What information from the reading busted these myths?
4. Does the reading imply that Native American history is one of conquest or one of cross-cultural exchange? Provide evidence for your choice.
5. Syncretism (the merging of ideas) was a major tenet seen in the reading. This seems like a good idea when we take the best parts of others’ thinking and improve on our own. Syncretism is also the basis of many fears surrounding globalization today. Are these fears founded or unfounded? Why?
6. Loewen indicates the acceptance of the Indian Wars and the genocide of the Native Americans owes a lot to the subtlely advanced idea the Native Americans were simply victims of progress and history. On the face of this, it is easy to see the flaw in the logic and the underlying untruth. However, recently we have ventured forward into societal changes that have a real cost in human lives. For example, the general increase in speed limits on motorways in the US has led to more auto accidents. Self-driving cars have had a few fatalities associated with them, which surprised none of the proponents, citing “known human costs” and “price of progress”. At what point do we as a society decide something is worth it or not worth it in human life terms? How should these decisions be made? And by whom?
7. Loewen points out many of the flaws of how Native Americans are handled in American historical education. Currently it seems in America that if you actually want to learn about Native Americans, one has to go out of his way to do so, usually by going to college and majoring in something directly or tangentially related to Native Americans (e.g. Native American Studies, Anthropology, etc.) How would a balanced approach to this work? Would a “history of the American continents” be a more fitting scope for what we should instruct in high school/college?