

In 2010, the Obama Administration implemented an anti-crime “surge” on Native American reservations (Williams). The plan was to increase police presence on reservations in response to spiking violent crime rates (Williams). For generations, Native American reservations have been plagued by crime and violence. There has been so much crime, in fact, that brutality has become a way of life. In Sherman Alexie’s *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, the young teenage protagonist, Junior, accepts violence and getting beaten up as a daily reality and he even lives by an unwritten code called, “Spokane Indian Rules of Fisticuffs” (61). Strangely, when Junior applies his Indian rules to the white world, the rules don’t work. Junior slowly comes to understand that there is a different road to success that doesn’t rely on violence for survival. He spends the rest of the novel trying to negotiate between the two worlds. **In the end, Alexie’s novel suggests that violence and the culture of fear that violence creates on Native American reservations keeps young Indians from succeeding in the bigger world.**



Main Examples From the Text:

Rowdy’s violence makes it so that he can never leave

The triplets beat Junior for no reason

Eugene killed in a drunken gun struggle

Works Cited

Alexie, Sherman. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2007. Print.

Williams, Timothy. "Brutal Crimes Grip an Indian Reservation." *New York Times*. New York Times. 4 Nov 2012. Web. 2 Feb 2012.