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SOCL 105-06

RGR #4- Body Ritual Among the Nacirema

Miner, Horace. “Body Ritual Among the Nacirema.”

1. **What is the P.O.A.?**
   * The point of this article is to show how our practices could be considered strange or odd. I believe the author wanted to prove how people are likely to judge other’s practices or social norms when they are not exactly like their own. This article could also be used to display the daily lives of an American citizen and highlight the privilege that most of them tend to have.
2. **How did they do it?**
   * Miner does this by creating a fictional world where the Nacirema live. Miner uses strange words and descriptions for doctors, dentist, medicine and cosmetic things. He describes this place in the weirdest ways making one believe it is a fictional made up town. Miner describes their daily lives and things that might not be done daily like dying your hair and going to a therapist. The Nacirema people represent the Americans. Miner calls them the Nacirema because Nacirema spelled backwards is American.
3. **What did they find?**
   * I think the person’s response to the article is how they find their results. This article is meant to show a person how they respond to social norms. All of the practices listed in the article are normal in America; however, they are described differently. This article also highlights the amount of vanity and care for one’s self in America and discusses the health care system making it seem excessive.
4. **So What?**
   * We need to evaluate how we look at and try to understand other cultures. The Nacirema are judged by us even though they actually represent Americans. This article shows unwillingness to accept other cultures, as global citizens we need to look at other cultures and not immediately judge them but try to understand them. This also makes the reader question whether the healthcare system is excessive and whether they are vain.
5. **What questions do I have about this article?**
   * Does this article only highlight the bad aspects of our culture? Is the desire to take care of your body/ health as much as the Nacirema a bad thing? Is the shrine room the bathroom? Does this article make one reevaluate if all of our heath care practices are necessary and/ or excessive? Does this article expose the normalcy of addiction and reliance on drugs?