In this course, we are examining the Geographies of Canada through the lens of nationalism and nation-building. This means different things to different people – and engaging with as many different narratives of what ‘the nation’ is and how it is experienced is crucial to one’s understanding of how ‘Canada’ functions both as an idea and as a process with material effects. For this reason, you will be asked to write a critical review of a film related to specific experiences and narratives of Canada.

short film link: https://www.nfb.ca/film/nipawistamasowin-we-will-stand-up/

Important instructions:

Given that this assignment is designed to support the course learning outcomes, I recommend you keep them in mind as you think about your approach to this assignment:

* Use the concept of ‘nation-building’ to examine how processes of inclusion and exclusion shape the geographies of Canada.
* Employ core geographic concepts such as place, scale, boundaries, and geographic imaginaries to examine understandings and experiences of Canada.
* Apply knowledge of the historical geographies of Canada to contextualize contemporary debates
* Express an informed opinion on controversial topics using geographic insights
* Examine your own role in shaping the geographies of Canada
* Develop research and communication skills applicable beyond this course, including critical reading, effective writing, and interpersonal communication

Format:

* The first part of your review (approximately 1-1.5 pages) should be a description of the film. Be as succinct as possible, prioritizing the points that will be most relevant to your subsequent analysis.
* The main portion of your review is the critical analysis (approximately 4-5 pages). This section should begin with an introductory paragraph that lays out your thesis – your analysis of how the producer/director discusses and/or portrays processes of nation-building. For the body of this section, draw upon the guiding questions from the previous section for other ideas of things to include in your analysis. Note: you do not have to address every question in the list below – but use them as ideas for the types of issues you could raise in your review depending upon their relevance to your argument. This is where it is most likely that you will engagewith at least TWO other sources. These sources can be from class and/or scholarly journals
* Citations: As mentioned above, you must draw upon two additional sources for this book review. They can come from class and/or be from a scholarly source (journal or book). Use APA in-text citation and include a APA-style bibliography at the end. Note that you do not need to include the book in this bibliography as it is already cited at the top. If you do quote from the book, however, be sure to use APA in-text citations.(I have provided the main 2 citations but you can use other sources in addition to the main ones if you wish)

Previous year assignments for a general idea of a good review has been attached for format ideas but they had different assignment details and should be used only for format purposes only. (example 1)

Keep these questions in mind as you watch the short film:

For the purposes of this assignment, you will be asked to write a critical review as opposed to a descriptive review. An analytic or critical review of a film is not primarily a summary; rather, it comments on and evaluates the work in the light of specific issues and theoretical concerns in a course. Keep questions like these in mind as you watch, make notes, and write the review:

1. What is the specific topic of the film? What overall purpose does it seem to have? For what readership is it written? (Don’t overlook facts about the producer and/or director’s background and the circumstances of the film’s creation and distribution.)
2. Does the producer/director state an explicit thesis? Does he or she noticeably have an axe to grind? What are the theoretical assumptions? Are they discussed explicitly?
3. What exactly does the work contribute to the overall topic of your course? What general problems and concepts in your discipline and course does it engage with?
4. What kinds of material does the work present (e.g. primary documents or secondary material, literary analysis, personal observation, quantitative data, biographical or historical accounts)?
5. How is this material used to demonstrate and argue the thesis? (As well as indicating the overall structure of the work, your review could quote or summarize specific scenes to show the characteristics of the director’s presentation, including cinemagraphic style and tone.)
6. Are there alternative ways of arguing from the same material? Does the director show awareness of them? In what respects does the director agree or disagree?
7. What theoretical issues and topics for further discussion does the work raise?
8. What are your own reactions and considered opinions regarding the work?