

Reading Log: Carman and Krishna - Side-by-Side

Directions: By now you've read Tim Carman's *WaPo* article "To David Chang, the 'Ethnic' Food Aisle Is Racist. Others Say It's Convenient" and Priya Krishna's *NY Times* article "Why Do American Grocery Stores Still Have an Ethnic Aisle?"

Your goal in this reading log is to dig a little deeper into the writing choices made by both authors, and to think about how these decisions affect the focus and tone of the articles.

- 1) Write a brief summary of each article. These will be separate paragraphs, NOT combined summaries.

Begin by presenting the author, title, and the main focus of the text in a single sentence.

For example: In the article "To David Chang, the 'Ethnic Food Aisle Is Racist. Others Say It's Convenient" author Tim Carman investigates different sides of the argument surrounding the existence of an ethnic food aisle in most American supermarkets.

Then, in your own words and using complete sentences in a logical order, present the key points of the text. This should be around 4-6 sentences, total.

(Again, remember that you need to do this for both articles, so you will write two summaries in total.)

Repeat for Krishna's article.

Respond to the following in complete sentences:

- 2) In "To David Chang..." consider how Tim Carman begins his article:

What information are readers provided first?

What are readers asked to think about?

Explain how the author's decision to begin the article this way **directs the readers' attention towards the topic.**

- 3) Consider the tone: Throughout the article, whenever the word ethnic is used outside of direct quotes, it appears in quotation marks (ie, "ethnic"). Why do you think this decision was made? Does it change how you consider the term when you come across it in the article?

- 4) Consider the outside sources:
Who is quoted in the article?
For each person or group quoted, explain – briefly – how their point of view adds to or changes the conversation.
- 5) In “Why Do American Grocery Stores...” consider how Priya Krishna begins her article:
What information are readers provided first?
What are readers asked to think about?
Explain how the author’s decision to begin the article this way sets the tone for the rest of the article.
- 6) Consider the tone:
The word ethnic is used in this article over 30 times, but only once appears in quotation marks. Why do you think the decision not to use quotation marks was made?
- 7) Consider the outside sources:
For each person or group quoted, explain – briefly – how their point of view adds to or changes the conversation.
- 8) Look at the texts side-by-side:
A) Explain the authors’ intent in their respective articles: are they taking a neutral stance or guiding the reader to form a specific opinion on the topic?
B) Briefly explain how the articles differ in intent.
C) Then, explain how the intent is informed or supported by stylistic choices, such as how the articles begin, which words are emphasized or de-emphasized, who is included in the discussion and / or quoted.
(This should be 3 – 5 sentences in total.)