



Plateau Indian Ways with Words: The Rhetorical Tradition of the Tribes of the Inland Pacific Northwest

By Barbara Monroe

University of Pittsburgh Press, United States, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 228 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. In Plateau Indian Ways with Words, Barbara Monroe makes visible the arts of persuasion of the Plateau Indians, whose ancestral grounds stretch from the Cascades to the Rockies, revealing a chain of cultural identification that predates the colonial period and continues to this day. Culling from hundreds of student writings from grades 7-12 in two reservation schools, Monroe finds that students employ the same persuasive techniques as their forebears, as evidenced in dozens of post-conquest speech transcriptions and historical writings. These persuasive strategies have survived not just across generations, but also across languages from Indian to English and across multiple genres from telegrams and Supreme Court briefs to school essays and hip hop lyrics. Anecdotal evidence, often dramatically recreated; sarcasm and humour; suspended or unstated thesis; suspenseful arrangement; intimacy with and respect for one's audience as co-authors of meaning - these are among the privileged markers in this particular indigenous rhetorical tradition. Such strategies of personalisation, as Monroe terms them, run exactly counter to Euro-American academic standards that value secondary, distant sources; objective evidence; explicit theses; logical arrangement...



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