Native-specific education media profiles mostly focus on a handful of the states with the largest Native populations (namely California, Oklahoma, Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, and Minnesota), Federally Recognized Tribes, and/or well-known reservations like Pine Ridge. In the Fall of 2013, Education Week sent a team to reservations in South Dakota and California, Pine Ridge included, for its multimedia Education in Indian Country: Obstacles and Opportunity project.

“Autumn, the beginning of the school year, is the cruelest season for Native American students in the United States. While most American Indians are comfortable with either term, Indian or Native American, a U.S. census survey found the preferred term for American Indians was: American Indian - 49.76%. Native American - 37.35%. Modern textbooks will talk about Native American resistance in the west and the forced confinement of Native Americans to reservations. The newest textbooks - some of them - will mention the Sand Creek and Wounded Knee Massacre. I have not read every American history textbook used in the nation's 40,000 school districts. In general it's reasonable to say that in recent decades there's been a greater awareness, a rising consciousness, that Native Americans were displaced from their traditional homes without choice or compensation. No American Indian language is derived from an historically known Old World language. The affinities of the native languages of the Americas are presumed to reach back across the Bering Strait but date back to a very remote period in the past. Not even the closest of such relationships can yet be demonstrated conclusively, so great have the changes been over the many thousands of years since the ancestors of the Old and New World peoples drifted apart.