Student Work Samples:
Artwork Based on Sally Morgan's Work

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Ian Whalan
How has life changed for Aboriginal people over the last 100 years?

NAME: Laura  DATE: 9/6/92

Since white people came to Australia, Aboriginal people have always been treated badly, and not so much now.

Some people used to refer to them as 'dirt'. Aboriginal people had to be washed, and checked for hair just to go to their local pool. After they did this they were only allowed in a small area of the pool and they could only go on one day.

Albert Namatjira was granted citizenship also for being a famous Australian artist. He lived in a house in Alice Springs. His family lived to be out of the city. Country by country, the laws said that he couldn't share alcohol with his family. But Aboriginal laws said he had to share. It was tough.

Sally Morgan went to school with white children. The other children would call her names and tease her about her raising. Her mother told her to tell them that they were wrong and they managed to convince some people.

At school you could be German, Dutch, anything but Aboriginal.

All together I can say that life has changed for Aboriginal people. There are many new laws such as the racial discrimination act, and the racial hatred act. You can now (in some cases) get prosecuted for being racist. Especially if you have witnesses.

We've all learnt a lot from the Aboriginals and I think we owe it to them to say not only that we're sorry but that it's not our country, not theirs either. It's all of ours. We are one.

As Sally Morgan would say: 'If people could just accept us, know that we have the same human emotions and feelings as anyone else on earth.'

Laura Scott
How has life changed for Aboriginal people over the last 100 years?

NAME: Emma  DATE: 20/6/92

Big changes have taken place in the lives of Aborigines all over Australia during the last hundred years. Some of these changes include discrimination, name calling, employment, and rights. The discrimination of Aborigines include being refused service at a cafe, or the rights to buy land. They could also be refused a job on the same principle as the afore mentioned rights, which were reserved for white people. This is all because of their skin being a darker colour.

In 1995, The Racial Discrimination Act was passed. This meant that the Aborigines now had the rights to buy land, be served at a cafe or restaurant, and get a job, and not be refused on the basis that they were black. But there was still the problem of name calling 100 years ago, nobody would have given much thought to insulting an aborigine, or some one of Asian descent. A few examples are Aba and coconut.

In 1995, The Racial Hatred Act was passed. This meant that anyone who makes a racist comment to an aborigine based on the fact that their skin is black, could from now be prosecuted and made to pay damages. Now notice the dates the acts were passed. It took almost 30 years after the discrimination act was passed to make the white Australians to realize that the Aborigines didn’t like being teased, or abused, or hurt because of who they were. This is appalling. But back then nobody really gave that much thought to it. In conclusion, these are the things that have changed the lives of Aborigines around Australia. They are treated better and are now given rights were hundred years ago would have been refused. Thank you.