

**DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE UNIT: LESSON 5 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

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1. The DAPL does not cross the current boundaries of the Standing Rock Reservation. Sioux tribe members say that it crosses their ancestral tribal land that was unfairly taken when the U.S. Government broke a treaty.
  - a. If the land was previously stolen, but no longer owned by the Sioux Indians, do they have a right to protest the DAPL? Why or why not?
2. If there is an oil spill, is Energy Transfer responsible for any pain and suffering that may occur on the Standing Rock Reservation?
  - a. Why or why not?
3. The Energy Transfer website explains that there is already an oil pipeline that travels under the Missouri River. It has been there for 35 years. There is also a train that carries oil across the Standing Rock Reservation every day. Does this invalidate the argument of the NODAPL protest movement?
  - a. Why or why not?
4. American Indian youth protestors raised awareness about the protests on social media, using the hashtag #NODAPL.
  - a. What are the risks and benefits of using social media as a tool for protesting and spreading awareness?
  - b. Do you think this is an effective strategy?
5. Consider the perspective of a leader at the Sacred Stone Camp. Most of the protestors want to protest peacefully, but some want to fight with the construction workers.
  - a. How could one integrate the two perspectives and keep everyone working towards a common goal?

### Writing Prompt

If the courts decide that Energy Transfer is legally allowed to build the pipeline, what should the protestors do next? Please use evidence from the readings and documents to support your position.

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Choose the best strategy from the options below, and then explain your decision.

- a. Accept the law and stop protesting.
- b. Continue protesting at Standing Rock.
- c. Use a different strategy.