

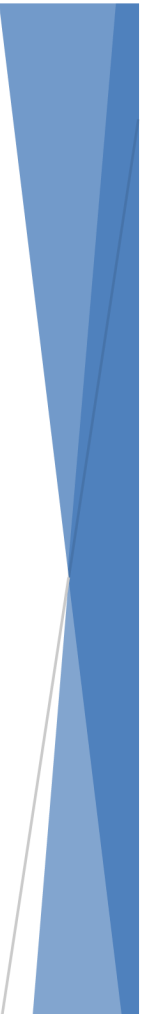
The following two paragraphs are excerpted from Leslie Morman Silko's "Border Patrol State," published by the *Tucson Weekly* on September 26th in 1996. It is an essay that declares the racial animus of American Border Policies on Native American Populations. This is an opinion essay written by a published local author, so consider the lack of transitions as a rhetorical choice, which creates a stronger tone and more directness with the audience. However, it is important to note that the subjectivity of the tone works against persuasiveness and leaves the essay as more of a rallying call for those who already agree with the author.

The weird anger of these Border Patrolmen **made me think**
about descriptions in the report of Argentine police and military
officers who became addicted to interrogation, torture, and the
murder that followed. **When the military and police ran out of**
political suspects to torture and kill, they resorted to the random
abduction of citizens off the streets. I thought how easy it would
be for the Border Patrol to shoot us and leave our bodies and car
beside the highway, like so many bodies found in these parts
and ascribed to drug runners.

ILLUSTRATION

ELABORATION

POINT



I was detained once at Truth or Consequences, **despite** my and my companion's Arizona driver's licenses. Two men, both Chicanos, were detained at the same time, **despite the fact** that they too presented ID and spoke English without the thick Texas accents of the Border Patrol agents. **While we were stopped, we watched as other vehicles--whose occupants were white--were waved through the checkpoint. White people traveling with brown people, however, can expect to be stopped on suspicion they work with the sanctuary movement, which shelters refugees. White people who appear to be clergy, those who wear ethnic clothing or jewelry, and women with very long hair or very short hair (they could be nuns) are also frequently detained; white men with beards or men with long hair are likely to be detained, too, because Border Patrol agents have profiles of "those sorts" of white people who may help political refugees. (Most of the political refugees from Guatemala and El Salvador are Native American or mestizo because the indigenous people of the Americas have continued to resist efforts by invaders to displace them from their ancestral lands.) Alleged increases in illegal immigration by people of Asian ancestry mean that the Border Patrol now routinely detains anyone who appears to be Asian or part Asian, as well.**

ILLUSTRATION

Personal example

POINT

The point is **not** that they were unjustly detained, but that the agents racially profiled them and others **despite** contrary evidence of legal status.

The last sentence in the paragraph is an addendum to the first point and abruptly includes another population as a victim of the profiling.

ELABORATION

The elaboration is explaining that there are exceptions but that the exceptions can fit nearly any man or woman. A reader should ask if this is an attempt to make white readers feel vulnerable as well or an attempt to explain exceptions that might be used as a counterpoint.

The parenthetical should also be seen as an elaboration on the elaboration as it does not support the point that people of color are being detained despite having ID but clarifying for the audience that refugees are politically persecuted and distinct from migrant workers. Why do you think Silko felt it necessary to make this point and do you think she did so effectively?