



## 2014 Chief Standing Bear Essay Winner

### Chief Standing Bear's Dream

"Be quiet you Redskin!" She yelled. I've seen people experience racism. Racism is disrespectful and rude. If Chief Standing Bear were here today he wouldn't tolerate it. When Chief Standing Bear went into that courtroom and stood up for Native Americans, it wasn't just for Natives, it was for all races that get mistreated. Color is just a color; it's not a category.

If Chief Standing Bear were alive today he would stand against racism. One way I have seen people experience racism is by name calling. For example, at a volleyball game I was at a Native team was playing against a non-native team. The non-native team said, "It doesn't matter what tribe you come from, you're still Indian." In my opinion that is offensive. The non-native team basically grouped all Natives together like it doesn't matter what tribe you come from, when it does because we all have different traditions, beliefs and ways.

If Chief Standing Bear were here today, he would say, "Men pull up your pants. Ladies, dress for success." Chief Standing Bear wants us to respect ourselves the same way he wanted the government to respect all Native Americans. He would also say "Men stop trying to be gangsters, and instead be graduates. Men and Women graduate high school, and go to college because education is going to get you somewhere in life." He wanted the best for his tribe. He went to court to lead his tribe in the right direction, the same way education can lead us in the right direction.

Chief Standing Bear would be unhappy with our society, but he would also be ecstatic about all of the Native Americans who have become great mothers, great fathers, great teachers and great learners. Chief Standing Bear wanted all Native Americans to do something with their life. He would want us especially to be successful. Also, he would say, "We are not Indians, we are NATIVE AMERICANS."

Written by Anna Berridge  
St. Augustine's Indian Mission