

ENVI 419
MOVIE - RESEARCH ESSAY QUESTION

The Big Sick: the movie

Question

Last summer, a movie called “The Big Sick” was in theaters. The movie tells the story – based on true events – of Kumail Nanjani, the son of Pakistani immigrants who meets, meets, falls in love with, and eventually marries, an American woman, Emily Gordon. The movie covers issues of migration and assimilation along the way in a very amusing way, with a focus on arranged marriages. Here is a link to the official trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GX3Regj6nAg> And this is a link to a video of the couple discussing the movie and their real experience: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=39veBH7_EBU Please be aware that there are parts of this movie that are intended for adult viewing only (some cursing and partial nudity). If you prefer to avoid this, please do so. The movie is available on Netflix.

Please watch the movie “The Big Sick.” Then discuss the movie and its take on assimilation.

What does the movie tell you about the experience of immigrants and assimilation? What other things did you learn from this movie? (By the way, about 30 minutes in, you’ll see a product made in Batesville, Indiana if you look in the lower left-hand part of the screen. And at the end of the movie, you’ll see Ray Romano reading a very interesting book – look for the title.)

Sources and Strategies

Basically, my goal with this assignment is to have you gain a deeper experience of immigration and assimilation in general, by watching and listening to this movie. Because of this, you’ll have two main sources: the movie itself, and the textbook description of Pakistan and South Asia. If you find additional sources, that’s fine. But again, my primary goal is to enable you to have a deeper look at migration and assimilation.

Formatting Requirements

Length: The **body** of your research essay should be between 600 and 750 words (*use “Word Count” to make sure you meet minimum length of 600 words*). Use Times New Roman font (12 point), with 1 inch margins all around. Please use double-spacing. Begin your response at the top of the page. Do NOT use a title page. Please include your name in the “header.” No other identifying information is needed. Please number your pages. Please bring your paper to class. SAVE A DIGITAL COPY FOR YOURSELF.