**Below is my model first paragraph for the I-Search paper. Keep in mind that this is a rough draft at this point. You may want to use your research proposal to help guide your writing.**

**What I Already Knew/ What I Wanted to Know**

“Amor, por que todo el mundo aqui piensa que soy Mexicano?” After working only a week, my husband Jose came home asking me this question: “Dear, why does everyone here think I am Mexican?” **(This is my lead, a.k.a. attention grabbing statement.)** I tried to explain to him why I thought his coworkers assumed he is Mexican instead of Costa Rican. America has been dubbed the “melting pot” of the world. Unfortunately, because of our relationship with our neighbor to the South, many Americans assume that because someone appears Hispanic that they are automatically from Mexico.

Before Jose even arrived in America, I knew he would probably encounter some racial prejudices and cultural misunderstandings. I encountered this when I was studying in Costa Rica, which is where I met Jose in 2005. “Hola, Gringa,” was a phrase I often heard. Without even hearing me talk or learning more about me, many Ticos (nickname for Costa Ricans) assumed that I was an American based on my appearance. (**This is where I explain what I already know about my topic.)**

I need to know why people assume a person’s ethnicity solely from appearance. Will people ever be able to look beyond appearances instead of making assumptions? As Americans, will we ever understand that just because someone looks Hispanic that they may be from one of over twenty other Spanish-speaking countries? (**This is where I tell what I want to know.)**

Based on my own experiences, I have formed a research question: *Why do so many people think Jose is Mexican even though he is Costa Rican?* After doing research, I hope to find the answer to this important question. **(Here I formed my research question.)**

**Leads**

You have learned six different kinds of leads. I would like you to develop three possible leads for your research topic.

Here are a few of mine:

**Talking Lead:** “Amor, por que todo el mundo aqui piensa que soy Mexicano?” After working only a week, my husband Jose came home asking me this question: “Dear, why does everyone here think I am Mexican?”

**Thinking Lead:** *Why does everyone think I’m Mexican? Costa Rica is not even close to Mexico!*

**Set-Up Lead:** When my husband Jose first arrived in America in 2008, he was excited to experience a new country, a new culture, a new life. However, once he began working at an establishment where he was the only Latino, he discovered that despite being Costa Rican, many of his coworker assumed, based solely on his skin color, that he was Mexican.

**Now you try!**

**Lead #1**

**Type: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Lead: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Lead #2**

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**Lead #3**

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**Lead: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**