

Day 5 Discussion: *My Country and My People* excerpts

Leader: In *My Country and My People*, what does Lin “get right”? What things still ring true? Is there anything you think that Lin “gets wrong”? Do you disagree with any of the generalizations he makes?

Many of the excerpts we’ve read are attempting to describe the Chinese “national character”—in other words, common personality traits and ways of thinking shared by Chinese people. Do you think that making generalizations about the “national character” is a useful way to help people understand a culture? Why or why not?

Some possible response templates:

One thing that **rings true to me** is Lin’s point that _____.

I **take issue with** Lin’s generalization that _____. In my opinion, _____.

I think **generalizing about** a country’s “national character” is / is not useful because _____.