

"Public schools (which serve 82 percent of all Indian elementary and secondary students) squelch American Indian culture, language and traditions, and do not offer the necessary support programs for Indians to succeed" (O'Brien 1990 16-22). *"Even if you have the best ideas, thoughts, or views, if you can't properly convey them through the use of language, they mean nothing," Aleta Ann Hoopes, seventeen years old, my daughter, said to me as we discussed the importance of education.*

There are not enough studies on how Natives learn. In order to reformulate a system one must be willing to understand the question and define the problem. Taking the people who are affected by the system and bringing them into the decision-making process would empower them and would greatly enhance the solution.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Native Americans have recently won several favorable court decisions and settlements. The issues decided were very diverse, including educational input, the right of a family to raise children on the reservation, rights to fish and hunt, the right to protect sacred ancestral lands, and the right to control water vital to the population and economic growth of the Southwest. In the Northwest, in addition to the preceding accomplishments, the Suquamish have entered agreements with the Navy to maintain control of