



**STUDYDADDY**

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## SAMPLE "DREAM INGREDIENTS" DISCUSSION POST

IDS 494: Interdisciplinary Inquiry  
Summer 2020  
Dr. Padoongpatt

### Main Question

*How and where did Asian Americans try to establish a place for themselves in America's suburbs? And what kinds of conflicts emerged from these attempts?*

### Working Argument/Hypothesis

Focusing on Wat Thai of Los Angeles weekend food festivals in suburban North Hollywood, California, I argue that food festivals helped Thai Americans establish a place in suburbia. Yet, nearby residents opposed the temple's festivals not because of personal bigotry toward Thais but because they wanted to reclaim a 1950s suburban ideal rooted in white middle-class values and the sanctity of private property—or a "white spatial imaginary."

### List of "Dream Ingredients"

1. City of Los Angeles. *Department of City Planning: Office of Zoning Administration Papers*. January 19, 1984. From Los Angeles City Archives, Case No. CUZ 84-228. (copy in my possession)

Contains rare information of the conflict between Wat Thai and nearby residents, including letters of support, petitions, official statements, and zoning rulings. The source provides evidence from people directly involved to examine if the nature of the conflict was rooted in land use, private property, and sanctity of single-family homes.

2. U.S. Census Bureau. "Race" for Census Tract 1214–1215, Los Angeles County. From Social Explorer Dataset (SE), Census 1980.  
<https://www.socialexplorer.com/a9676d974c/explore> (accessed June 8, 2020)

Provides data on the racial and ethnic makeup of the neighborhoods surrounding Wat Thai. I'm interested in how many Thais settled near the temple, if the neighborhood reflected national trends in the diversification of suburbs, and the broader demographic setting in which the conflict took place.

3. Nielsen, John. "City Carves Compromise on Noise, Crowds, at Temple." *Los Angeles Times*, March 22, 1984: V1. From ProQuest Historical Newspapers.  
<https://search-proquest-com.ezproxy.library.unlv.edu/docview/153760925/7BE89D44F7C2480DPO/5?accountid=3611>

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Details voices and perspectives from all sides of the conflict, including direct quotes from Thais and members of the "Neighborhood Committee" who opposed temple food festivals. I'm interested in whether the neighbors expressed any personal racial animosity toward Thais and how they understood the racial and cultural implications of their opposition.

4. Hansen, Barbara. "Thais in Southern California Celebrate a Bicentennial," *Los Angeles Times*, April 22, 1982: J1. From ProQuest Historical Newspapers.

<http://ezproxy.library.unlv.edu/login?url=https://search.proquest.com/docview/153089313?accountid=3611>

Provides a first-hand account of a major weekend food festival at Wat Thai celebrating a Thai holiday. It includes rich descriptions of food booths, crowds, and types dishes sold along with photos. This will help me establish how central the temple was for Thai community building in suburban Southern California.

5. Urai Ruenprom oral history interview conducted by Mark Padoongpatt in North Hollywood, California, December 18, 2008. Audio tape recording. From author's personal archive.

Mr. Ruenprom was among the first group of temple leaders (treasurer) and thus has first-hand knowledge and experience of Wat Thai's formation as well as the festivals. He speaks to the importance of the temple for the Thai community. In addition, he shares information about the conflict from the Thai perspective.

6. David Christianson oral history interview conducted by Mark Padoongpatt in Irvine, California, March 15, 2007. Audio tape recording. From author's personal archive.

Mr. Christianson was Wat Thai's lawyer who represented them during the zoning conflict. He was a close friend of Thai community leaders and temple officials, and provides information about the temple's history, food festivals, and legal strategies used to keep it open when neighbors tried to shut it down via zoning law.



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