The essay begins with a sense of excitement created by the very active verb "splashed" and an equally striking adjective, "boldness." Indeed, she begins the piece in a bold way. Her analysis, however, becomes anti-climactic when she states the two major claims. Essentially, at face value, she argues that the pink flamingo was popular because it was a flamingo and because it was pink. This intensional use of the obvious established by the second line even emphasized with italics, already lays the foundation for her opinions on American culture. The fact that this object became popular for these reasons reveals the ways in which the collective American mind forms its desires.

The remainder of the opening paragraph simply establishes background about the flamingo. After that, though, the author continues to give indications of what she thinks of the culture in the United States. Her argument that Americans used flamingos to reveal prosperity (a point that she raises with more very active language—the flamingo "inscribed" the laws as "emphatically") and especially important notion following the Great Depression appears to be a valid interpretation. The examples used are important. Price does appeal to authority in some ways by quoting from two well-known authors of the time; however her other examples are more telling. She cites a gangster, Benjamin Bugsy Siegel and his hotel, as a basis for the striking nature of the flamingo. And when explaining the popularity of pink, she brings up Elvis. Thus, flamingos became popular across the U.S.—or to use her simile, "cropped up like a line of semiotic spouts"—because of these sights with which Americans were familiar. While there may be a sound basis for this movement, such as post-Depression affluence, Price goes beyond that. These examples show that American culture is trendy, that American purchasing patterns are based on those of public figures. Even the Ann Marлин quote she chose reflects that thought that Americans bought pink because it was the cool thing to do.

Even more telling that Price's selection of quotes and examples is the tone she uses selectively but effectively. Her sarcasm is quite strong in the stand-alone fragment in line 15, "But no matter. The Americans nearly wiped out this bird, but that was unimportant to them. This idea surely contrasts with both the generic sentiment and especially her scholarly audience. It therefore reflects what she thinks Americans find important—things that defied conventional wisdom and morality were non-issues. Later in the essay, she asks a rhetorical question, "Why, after all, call the birds 'pink flamingos'—as if they would be blue or green?" (lines 46-47). Besides being entertaining, she uses this device to further underscore the importance of the color pink. Price then illustrates the further absurdity of making the plastic bird unnecessarily brighter than the real one. This fact leads to her conclusion that it is "no wonder" that the bird stood out in a brighter form outside of its natural environment. Once again she is playing on the obviousness of what she is describing.

Through various techniques, Price is thus able to comment on both the specific phenomenon and its more general implications. Through various examples, flashy word choice, and especially the slightly sarcastic tone help reveal that she finds flaws in the American thought process. This fact is most true when it comes to the basis for American trends. She is able to send this message not explicitly, but through implicit comments.
Notice that both essay strengths include:

- Addresses full aspects of the prompt
- Provides clear transitions between paragraphs
- Discusses strategies in order of appearance in text.
- Discusses full scope of text (although the 6 less fully than the 8)
- Provides clear evidence from text to support statements.
- Provide explanations and connections to purpose/thesis.