

<p>Estrella: Barron-Lopez:</p>	<p>“Hi, my name is Estrella Barron-Lopez and I'm here with my teacher Miss Hernandez because I have to do this project for Ethnic studies, and I'm partnered with Tacoma Public Library and here you go, go Miss Hernandez.”</p>
<p>Ariana Hernandez:</p>	<p>“Hi, I'm Miss Hernandez uhm my government name in the non-teacher world is Ariana Nicole Hernandez and I am an English teacher in 9th and 10th grade English teacher here at Franklin Pierce High School.”</p>
<p>Estrella Barron-Lopez:</p>	<p>“OK, so I have a few questions prepared for you today. And my first question is how do you identify ethnically?”</p>
<p>Ariana Hernandez:</p>	<p>“I identify as Latina or as Hispanic uhm I know that there is. A lot of debate. And. Wow. Um, a lot of debate about which term to, to use. The word Hispanic was really the word that was used when I was growing up and the word that I checked on all the boxes um, but I'm used to being called that comfortable being called that. Uhm but also can go by Latina, that is OK with me.”</p>
<p>Estrella Barron-Lopez:</p>	<p>“Great to know. I also identify as that. Uhm Another question I have. Another question I have for you is what's one challenge you occasionally or regularly face in your job as of right now?”</p>
<p>Ariana Hernandez:</p>	<p>“I think that the biggest challenge that I've always faced in teaching is seeing uhm sad things happen to kids. Sad things being an either that they uhm don't do well academically and don't get supported, or never find academic success either because they aren't getting the support they need from the teacher. Or just because of things going on in their outside lives. Um I think, yeah, just to shorten, to shorten the answer, it's to see kids not be successful in high school or yeah, I mean just see kids disappear, right? So like, sometimes I'll teach students in 9th or 10th grade and uhm they don't end up graduating at this school. And sometimes they graduate in other places, and that's good. But yeah, I think just to like see students struggle or just not see them find success or happiness. And in the years that I know them.”</p>

Estrella Barron-Lopez:	“Yeah, that that can be difficult. As a student myself, I also see like other kids move out and it's kind of sad. Like I know them and they're just not, not really wanting to, like want to do school anymore. So they just leave school and just never study on or like go on with this academic life, I guess. But I have another question and it is What made you become a teacher specifically at this school?”
Ariana Hernandez:	“Um, what brought me? So I'm not originally from the Washington area at all. I'm not from this state and it's cold here, but. I'm from San Antonio, TX and that's where I uhm went to high school, went to college with certified to be a teacher uhm and then I ended up teaching in Milwaukee for a while with program Teach for America and I went back to Texas. And what made me teach specifically at this school is that uhm I got married uhm and my husband is stationed at JBLM And so we decided to not be a long distance marriage and for me to move here. And so, I moved here and really had no idea like what districts were in this area, was looking online and saw that there's so many districts near where we decided to live uhm and just kind of apply to all of them. And this is where I got hired. But looking back, I'm really glad that I got hired here versus the other districts around here. But that's how I ended up here.”

Estrella Barron-Lopez:	"Oh, I'm so glad you got hired here. Umm umm. Another question is was becoming a teacher your long life goal?"
Ariana Hernandez:	"Lifelong goal."
Estrella Barron Lopez:	"Yeah"
Ariana Hernandez:	<p>"Wow. What even is a lifelong goal? Nobody has lifelong goals anymore anyways. That's so hard. Well, when no. Um I never knew what I wanted to be when I was like in high school um I was just kind of existing, My brother was like the Golden child, so he was like the salutatorian. His GPA was like, over four. He was in band. He was involved in everything. All the teachers loved him. He got the gates. Millennium Scholarship, which is a scholarship. Bill Gates and his wife used to give out well not them specifically, but like Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation would give out um that was only available for minorities and it would fund like their entire college experience, essentially. Um, so he got that. And I was just like existing, you know, Like I was in band because he had to be in band. I went to school because, you know, where else would I go and um then reached a point where I was like, what do I do with my life? Like my brother's gonna go to college and I'm just gonna be here by myself um with my parents. Kind of hated my parents at the time. Um don't anymore mad respect for mom and dad. Um but so I was like, OK, well, I need to get out of this house because he's about to get out of this house. So I graduated a year early so we can both leave at the same time um and was like, well, I'm just going to go to college so I could leave. Um and then I was like, well, what do I go to college for and I was like, well, what am I good at? Well, I'm good at English and I'm good at, at math. And so I was like, I could major in one of those two things, um but then I was like, well, what would I do with English or math? And I noticed they had like a, a creative writing major, which I really wanted to do. Cause I'd like to write, but I was like, well, I'm not gonna be able to get a job in creative writing. So I'll just teach, right, like in English they have like um where you can go to educator route. So I'll do that and then I'll just, you know. Right, right. Part time. Like on the side. Um, never, never did that. Never became a writer. Um, so just kind of ended about ended up teaching and then I realized that I was kind of good at it and kind of liked it and decided to stay here um right now. I think my life long goal is to. Yeah, that's just such a hard question. Um. My life long Yeah. Do I have to answer that? Do I have to answer my current life long? That wasn't the question, huh? It's just me pondering life. Um so no that wasn't my lifelong goal, but it did become the goal that I was focused on for a good while and felt really strongly about now I got here."</p>

Estrella Barron Lopez:	"Yay"
Ariana Hernandez:	"Yay"
Estrella Barron Lopez:	"OK. um another question I have is, do you think our community was welcome, welcoming to you as a teacher like here at the district"
Ariana Hernandez:	"You skipped a question.... Fired."
Estrella Barron Lopez:	"Anyways, skip on. Go on."
Ariana Hernandez:	"Just, so we go back to the other question? Or are we just jus- move forward?"
Estrella Barron Lopez:	"Move forward."
Ariana Hernandez:	"Just move forward! Ok. Um wow to me as a teacher. I mean are teacher and person two separate beings?... Yeah, are teachers and person two separate things.? Are they the same thing?"
Estrella Barron Lopez:	"Same thing, I guess."
Ariana Hernandez:	Same thing? Yeah, I mean, I think so. I would say so. Um. I think. That's a hard question for me for me to answer because I don't think that we're fully united like. In our values and in our purpose as a school community right now and so. I mean, I don't, I don't want to say we don't have a community because community happens whether you have it or not, I think whether you plan for it to happen or not, right. But I think that there are some sub communities in this school that were welcoming to me and some sub communities which were not. "
Estrella Barron Lopez:	"I see."
Ariana Hernandez:	"That is my, that is my answer to that question."

<p>Estrella Barron Lopez:</p>	<p>“Hmm, ok now and the question that I really wanted to ask is, have you ever overheard or heard personally from students who experience racism at our school?”</p>
<p>Hernandez:</p>	<p>“Have you ever overheard or- Yeah um, all the time. Well, OK, so heard from students?”</p>
<p>Estrella:</p>	<p>“Mhm”</p>
<p>Hernandez”</p>	<p>“Yeah, I have heard comments from students, um, that teachers said or did things that were racist. A lot of times I don't hear too much about like what it looks like or what it sounds like I've heard students say like oh that teacher um that teacher is racist or things like that, but I've never. A lot of times they go, don't go super into detail. Um I would say in the ways that like I see racism happen to students um I think just. Um, just looking at like our suspension rates, like our expulsion rates our exclusion rates, what they call it here, um who we have on our phone list, like who passes and fails classes. I think that those numbers are really revealing of what the students say but don't have words for. Um, I heard something that was racist yesterday. Do you want me to tell you?”</p>
<p>Estrella:</p>	<p>“Yeah.”</p>
<p>Hernandez:</p>	<p>“OK, great. Um. So I was filling up my water bottle in the Commons towards the end of second lunch and I was talking to a student who is like eating a salad. Um out of like a paper bowl, which seems like a bad way. To serve a salad. But anyways, Um, so it's filling up my water bottle and an administrator. Um oh I heard someone say. It turned out that they were an administrator, but I heard someone say ‘Sabes ingles?’ to a group of students who are Hispanic. One student I teach. other students I don't know, but they were standing towards the doors of the Commons. Um. And the administrator, like, yelled at them. ‘Sabes ingles?’ like in a question way And I turned around and I looked at her and I'm not sure if she knew that I was a teacher, because, you know, sometimes I look like a student when I'm like, wearing leggings, yeah. My hair looks like this and you know and um so. I turned on and looked at her and then she told the students, ‘Well, if you speak english, then why arent you moving yet?’ And I just, after the fact I really should of said something, but the kids just looked at her and then didn't say anything and then just left. Um but it was just seemed like a really inappropriate and stereotypical thing to say. Um and not respectful to students at all but anyways... Yeah, just thinking more about like the weight that carries like do you- does that person actually think that looking at them and their skin color and the way that they're dressed that they don't speak English? And if that person knows that these kids do speak English, why say that? And just like try to impact that in my head but that was something I saw yesterday.”</p>

Estrella:	"And that was yesterday?"
Hernandez:	"Yeah, that was yesterday. It was real."
Estrella:	"It really does happen often more than you think."
Hernandez:	"It does and I think a lot of times maybe sometimes kids don't know that its racist or they don't know who they can talk to about it, because I have talked to the principle um about how I've heard students say pretty frequently that things that this person racist or this person whatever um but I think that if the students don't report that themselves directly and when it happens a lot of times administration likes to they think it doesn't exist just because they're not hearing about it or not hearing about it specifically in the moment um yeah."
Estrella:	"Wow, Ok, now this question. Is there something you'd wish to change at our school?"
Hernandez:	"Um, yeah, big thing lately. I think that we need to be prioritizing because of like right like the problems that we're having with racist remarks or because of the data where we have like a certain population of students failing more getting um in more trouble discipline wise, um, we need to focus on who we hire right like I think that at the end of the day we can have um, like professional develop development for teachers on like how not to be a racist but I think the biggest way to dismantle racism is to have our um, teachings our staff represent the population of our students and I think that's the way that you make change and I think that we need to start prioritizing who it is that we hire um, and make sure that who we're hiring is matching, matching who we teach."
Estrella:	"I completely agree we were also talking about that in ethnic studies in my class and I honestly agree with everything because I feel like we should have a change in this school, cause I also hear a lot of racism but it's just like its, it's like it's a lot like you get used to it, it's kind of shocking and scary."
Hernandez:	"Right and as a student like you should feel like you are able to challenge a teacher in the moment when something is said um, but I think that the reality of it is that I don't think students actually have that power here like I could see if a pushback came from a student just in those moments that I saw yesterday those students would get in trouble right even though they would have been standing up for themselves and so I think that the way that the things being said really get challenged is when it's like adult vs. Adult right and an adult would be much more likely to feel like they have power to challenge something inappropriate that said um, than a student feels like they have power and I still think right that adults here sometimes even don't feel completely safe or like there's not going to be repercussions if they stand up to certain things or speak up about certain things um but I think the likelihood that they would feel empowered and safe to do so is much more likely than the likelihood of a student feeling empowered and safe to do so-
Estrella:	So."

Hernandez:	"Yes, I agree"
Estrella:	"Yes."
Hernandez:	"And now the last question that I'm going to ask for you. What are three things that shaped you into who you are today?"
Estrella:	"You don't want me to say that you skipped a question? You skipped you did that on purpose. "
Hernandez:	"Noo! Okay but go on."
Estrella:	"Um, wow, three things that shaped me into wow."
Hernandez:	"Hard question?"
Estrella:	"Yeah, hard question um where I come from but that is a very loaded response um where I come from being like geographically um, economically right like ethnically, culturally um, then I think... my family um and um, wow, I guess, yeah, also. My education and my students. Yeah, I think, and I think about this a lot. I think that there were a lot of ways where I could have ended up in a very different situation than what I am right now, and I think things that always like. So the things that have made a difference or the fact that the people in my life really refused to like lay down and die and I don't mean like actually die but like they refuse to accept that their situation was going to be there situation forever um, and I think seeing people like that in my life um helped me feel like I could also change my situation and I think also like the people that I met in my education or even when I was like working um quote on quote like not professional jobs like was given a lot of grace um and given a lot of understanding and people had a lot of faith on me um, and then I think that teaching my students and seeing the things that they go through um have made me a lot stronger and more vocal um I was super super shy person before I became a teacher um I couldn't even give school presentations and I had a professor in college tell me 'how are you going to become a teacher if you can't present things?' and got to figure it out, and I did! Um, well not really I sit back here really awkward but you know it is what it is but I think yeah I think that my students have made me change from being sort of like a person who's like who has sort of like meek or afraid to say what they have to say to someone who in certain times when necessary um, can be very outspoken and advocate for others... yeah that's my answer."
Hernandez:	"Good to know"
Estrella:	"Do I get a gold star?"
Hernandez:	"Yes, you get a gold star."
Hernandez:	"Wonderful!"
Estrella:	"Okay, thank you for your time, Mrs. Hernandez I really enjoyed this conversation even though it was an interview but still it was great."
Hernandez:	

Estrella:	“Yeah! interviews should be conversations, and these are conversations we should be having at our school level.”
Hernandez:	“Yeah, I think it should be normalized.”
Estrella:	“Yeah.”
Hernandez:	“Okay, I'm a end it now.”
Estrella:	“Okay.”
Hernandez:	“Bye!”
Hernandez:	“Byee!”