

SH:	State your name.	
AR:	Angela Elizabeth Rodriguez Hinojosa.	
SH:	Your age.	
AR:	I'm 21.	
SH:	Where we are located.	
AR:	Uh Tacoma Washington and we are at home.	
SH:	Sniff* um how do you identify ethnically?	
AR:	Uh Hispanic Latino but I'm Mexican.	
SH:	Can you speak Spanish?	
AR:	Yes.	
SH:	What is your family background like are they immigrants?	
AR:	Yeah so, my parents are originally from ciudad de Mexico uh they came here when they were young with their parents and uh first, they came to California, and I think they just went through the desert they didn't like cross the river or anything and then years later they went to Washington.	
SH:	They drove here?	
AR:	I think they took like what seemed like a trip, so they were in naucalpan.	
SR:	Where is that?	
AR:	Naucalpan is a little town right outside the city and so my mom told me that they went like a trip to visit you know cause you had to go I think um they were basically taking a trip towards like Tijuana, and they stopped at a bunch of places and then I think they arranged you know with the coyote or somebody to help them cross and they just went through the desert.	
SH:	Have you felt fear about your parents being deported?	
AR:	When I was younger I didn't really know I wasn't really aware of like status or you know what that is um I remember probably when I was a little bit older like in middle school I started to realize what you know the reality was that my parents weren't from here and that they were immigrants	

and they didn't have any citizenship and then I started to think about um you know what were the chances of them getting in trouble or them just getting caught uh so yeah it was a fear um especially because I'm first generation and so it was kind of like up to me to do better like so that there wouldn't be that fear and I remember um being told you know when I was 21 that I would claim somebody so that they could get their citizenship um and I still have to I think I still have to do that but mommy's married so their doing that and I think ill probably just do Mami Martha.

SH: Um do you do any traditions for ethnicity?

AR: Uh we do some um most of it is in the food so like types of food that you do at a certain time of the year or like for instance around you know Christmas time like we don't really do Christmas like that but usually what they would do is like posadas and posadas are like parties like big party's big gatherings um-

AR: -With families

SH: But I thought that was like after like the big parties

AR: No, it's like during so remember- we threw a couple posadas back then mommy, mommy did one and it's like -it's kind of like a responsibility like like every weekend leading up to um Christmas somebody has to host a posada and so they the food and then they do like certain uh type of like- you guys do like little mhh kind of like gifts but like it would just be certain food that you'd give out. I remember one time mommy did like some type of fruit and it was really cool cause everybody really liked it, it was kind of different then what they would normally do like thing they would do like ensalada de manzana but mom did something different that year I remember and they were like oh we really liked it um but usually I think the posadas are um uh certain family member gets responsibility of throwing a gathering like that and they do the food and then they do like games and stuff like that um we just did the Reyes los dais de los Reyes magos where it's like the nativity of Christ. Christ being born and the three kings came to visit him and gave him gifts and so what we do is the Rosca de Reyes were its like just a big pan and then there's little babies hidden inside of it and if you, you take turns cutting a piece of the Rosca and if you get a baby inside you have to make tamales um for certain day like next month on February.

SH: uh

AR: huh?

SH: it's on the second, right?

AR:

	<p>I think it's on the second, yeah. Um but what they do for kids its kind of like a Christmas again were only the kids get gifts remember.</p>	
SH:	<p>Mhmm</p>	
AR:	<p>Baby got a... he got a gift from Tio Arturo but yeah that what we just did. So, things like that we kind of still do.</p>	
SH:	<p>when were you taught about race and culture?</p>	
AR:	<p>Uh I wasn't really aware of that until like probably... uh like late middle school where they talk about but I- until like I really learned about it in depth about social justice was high school cause of the program that I was in um college bound.</p>	
SH:	<p>Coll -oh</p>	
AR:	<p>Yeah and so a lot of my friends- it was a program for low income kids and kids of color so I remember there was only like one white person in there because he was, because he was from low income um but yeah so a lot of my friends were mixed or black or you know Hispanic and so the more classes we took together the more we started talking about it in my friend his name is Chris I don't know if you ever seen him at school but he's like the most, Como se dice he's the most invested person in that kind of stuff like um he has he's like the president of like black student union in high school and then like at his school he goes to a really um predominantly white school he goes to Whitworth university and um he's I think he's also the president of like um another group that they have over there and I always see him posting about... um you know things about black lives matter and just ways to support or you know he's just spreading word and so I learned a lot of that from him and so I mean people that we surrounded ourselves with so yeah and then like mentors and just like my fellow friends or peers and then I started to take more classes and um you know school like at PLU and so yeah.</p>	
SH:	<p>have you experienced anything racial towards you?</p>	
AR:	<p>yeah so, this one time it was my first job I worked at the Pierce County jail I was a commentary worker and um the woman who was training me was also a woman of color she was Asian, and she was like Asian and white, but her features were Asian you could tell she was mixed and she was nice to me until we went to a certain pod um-</p>	
SH:	<p>what's a pod?</p>	
AR:	<p>A pod is was like a specific um it looked like a pod that's why they called it a pod. It's kind of like um so it's like a hallway but you go into like a room where it's like 4 four sides of like a cellblock, and a cellblock, a cellblock, and a cellblock that's why they called it a pod um but it's like I think it's</p>	

	<p>like 4 cell blocks in one -in one space that's why that's why they called it that but um we were in there and she started making a joke about like if I knew -like if I knew a lot of people in jail because I'm Mexican.</p>	
SH:	<p>Mhh cause your Mexican</p>	
AR:	<p>she was like oh I'm pretty sure she knows a lot of people in here probably like her family and she was joking to the CO he was white and so they just started laughing basically she was like Oh yeah ha she's Mexican you know she probably knows everybody in here and I was just like you what.</p>	
SH:	<p>so, half the people in jail were Mexican?</p>	
AR:	<p>well, a lot of I mean if you look at the statistics a lot of people of color are you know the demographic of people in jail so they're the highest. I mean people in there so like predominantly black or does people of color um, so she just started making a joke like Oh yeah you probably do you know a couple of people in here they're probably like your family or whatever. And I was like what and I didn't realize what she said until way later, so I was like yeah, I don't like this and I ended up I DID I did end up knowing a couple of people in jail which sucked so yeah ha-ha which sucked.</p>	
SH:	<p>um is your childhood any different from your current life now?</p>	
AR:	<p>uh yeah like I guess I could say in terms of being a kid like being shielded from</p>	
SH:	<p>the world.</p>	
AR:	<p>just so yeah, I guess the world and like reality like this is society these are the problems that we face this is because you are this type of person are you're a girl or you this color or your this race or whatever things are gonna be a lot different for you and so I had to grow up and experienced that by myself or be taught because my parents weren't really like that-</p>	
SH:	<p>-and you were the oldest child</p>	
AR:	<p>and I was the yeah, I'm the oldest so like I had to learn it as I went and uhm I mean they just always wanted me to be a good kid and I don't know they were kind of like shielding me from or protecting me from a lot of things, but I had to learn it anyway so that's what makes it different now cause I had to learn it.</p>	
SH:	<p>from friends.</p>	
AR:	<p>from friends or from experiences or you know classes or my teachers and then just the experience of transitioning from high school to college.</p>	
SH:	<p>was it worse in college?</p>	

AR:	you know what had to say for me personally I had to say no but everybody's experience is different um I could say like because of what I learned not maybe -maybe not what I learned but just opportunities now resources in programs for people they want to reach out to people of color people of low income or first generation kids so that they can get the help that they need to go to school because that was such a big problem back then you know so I could say for me it's not so bad but that's just me you know there's -there's still -just because it didn't happen to me it's not a problem or that it's not real so just being aware of that that is, that is out there you know there's that there are those differences it just makes more it you it just makes you more aware.	
SH:	Because of those differences did you like gain any opportunities or miss any opportunities?	
AR:	uh I had to say like I did gain a lot because I got the help I needed the money I needed for school um and got to experience a lot of like cool programs um I remember because of the programs that I was in I studied all the time every summer I was always at a different university trying to figure out where I wanted to go or how I was gonna do it um and because I got that because of the program that was for students of color or low income but they close it down.	
SH:	Wha- what program?	
AR:	it was college bound they -they closed it down I think they did it because of government funding it's still a- it's still like a- you can still get the scholarship the college bound scholarship So anyone who's low income Gets the college- the colle- college bound scholarship it comes in your tuition or your FAFSA, so you get the money but the program itself was so different they don't. FP doesn't haven't anymore not like remember I told you my mentor was Tiffany, and I was always in a room with my friends, and we'd have classes together and stuff like that and on the summers, I would go to PLU and take those classes and stuff th- that doesn't exist anymore. I think you guys were in it but not like me remember you guys did the summer online stuff.	
SH:	like upward bound	
AR:	yeah, uh the organization itself is called upward bound but the college bound program that I was in it doesn't exist anymore, yeah.	
SH:	uh did you do you participate in the Pledge of Allegiance or the national anthem?	
AR:	mhh no not really.	
SH:	why not?	

AR:	<p>Um... mhh long pause ha-ha uh I just thought cause I you know learned a lot about um people like colonization and stuff like that, so I was like you know we're in a we're in a country that's not doesn't pertain to U.S. I mean it legally and historically it does now um but it's originally it was a land that was stolen and so I was like it was its kind of stupid. And so yeah I mean tha- that's how the world was -that's how people -that's how - that's how why we're here now because a long time ago somebody colonized this country yeah so -so I was like that's -that's kind a yeah and then a lot of people because of the problem that were going On back then. I remember I think it was the because trump was being elected and supposedly the word was that trump was like you know close the border whatever build the wall and so I was like I'm Mexican you know like that really affects me and people who wants to come over here for better life like my parents did and I was like what and they wanna close the wall or they wanna build the wall or they wanna keep people out that sucks. And so I remember being really involved in that and um I was like why am I gonna support you know a country that won't... that doesn't think of others like that you know so that's why I was like you know screw the Pledge of Allegiance or you know screw white people that have this -this much privilege and don't care about others like that you know but I think I think now it's more just like I respect you and if you wanna do it that's cool but I'm cool right here.</p>	
SH:	<p>so, like people now in days like especially at my school like now when people like mostly white people when they stand up for it people will look around like why are they doing that that they like get made fun of for it.</p>	
AR:	<p>So people who want to do the pledge of allegiance are getting hate for it? cause it's funny as I remember back then if you took a knee or if you didn't do it they were like oh you're disrespectful like this is your country da-da-da-da-da and then they would I remember somebody in the NFL or I remember this was in the NFL like they would take a knee during the Pledge of Allegiance or the national anthem or whatever and it was like disrespectful.</p>	
SH:	<p>-If you didn't</p>	
AR:	<p>yeah, if you didn't and now it's like times are weird, I guess it has to do with like the influence and just uhm yeah it has to be the influence the influence is now in this generation it's just a little weird. That's crazy though like I don't really agree with that because personally like I said you know it's my decision not to cause I have my own personal reasons as long as you respect that we're cool and um I won't disrespect those who are patriotic and believe in it and want to honor that that's cool you know cause my parents they're very patriotic to towards our country they miss their country and every time they hear the national anthem they get emotional and I'm like wow you know to feel that for your country that's</p>	

	awesome that's cool so I try to think of it that way just to be mindful and respectful to other people's believes.	
SH:	um have you seen anyone use your ethnicity as a costume?	
AR:	I think me personally it hasn't really happened to me I haven't witnessed it um, but I see it like online or on shows you know like films or media	
SH:	Especialy on tiktok	
AR:	On tiktok yeah tiktok is not good	
SH:	Tiktok is bad	
AR:	Its -it's funny like I like watching the funny videos, but I know it's a huge influence on kids nowadays and that is not good	
SH:	like people like I remember when um when it was Biden versus trump people were tell-	
AR:	on tiktok I don't think-	
SH:	yes, on tiktok	
AR:	- I don't think I was on tiktok at the time	
SH:	Dude like Literally people were telling underage kids they be like Oh my gosh who are you voting for who are you voting for-	
AR:	And these kids are like Oh my gosh I don't know you know that's crazy	
SH:	No like kids getting hated on because they were like not of age and they were like still 16 or like why does it matter it's not my problem I'm still a little kid and people are like why aren't you doing that wwh-	
AR:	Yeah you see that's -that's a problem like just influences and you know kids being naive or not understanding and you know just if I think it's -it's just really -just really sucks cause I know the audience nowadays are younger kids and I think that's the most dangerous audience because you know se pueden llevar por you know los cosas que no -you know what I mean like it's just it's not cool right I -cause I remember I was a kid and I was I would see that shit and I'd be like what does that mean or I remember being that curious so I know what it's like to you know believe something because your influenced or because you're coerced or forced or -or because it's cool or because it's you know it's-	
SH:	A trend	

AR:	It's a trend you know so I remember following that for a little bit like when I was younger, I mean back then we had Facebook and we had Snapchat and Instagram where we're barely you know going so I just remember being in that position and I mean looking back now I wish I wish I didn't but I know now it's so different cause it's so fast and it's just so it's so big the platform is huge	
SH:	and mostly little kids	
AR:	-yeah, poor little kids dude like I know	
SH:	people are like growing up into it	
AR:	I know oh it's -it's crazy it's I know it's just I don't like it yeah; I just don't like it that's what I'm saying like it's about influences and it's about you know -dejan la -la gente o los niños dejando llevarse por -por las cosas así like its crazy because they're innocent or because they don't know any better or their parents don't teach them you know.	
SH:	And they're tryna learn it off of social media	
AR:	and yeah, and it's -that's not the best way to learn anything yeah.	
SH:	um I have you ever been embarrassed with self-conscience about your own race or the way you look?	
AR:	Uhh yeah, cause I remember like if we're talking like social media and all that I remember back then like cause I went to a predominantly white school like white middle school and white high school So what was trendy then was like you know... white girls with blonde hair and blue eyes and you know like the -the standards -the beauty standards or -or you had to wear this type of clothes to be you know cool or acceptable	
SH:	to fit in	
AR:	to fit in yeah, and I remember like kind of hating on my features because-	
SH:	-because you didn't look like them	
AR:	Yeah because I didn't look like them like oh that's not that's pretty and that's not what I look like you know so it sucked for a little bit cause I was like I'm freaking dark you know I'm so dark or my hair is not the right color or you know things like that I had a huge nose so um I remember having to like you know deal with that and then I grew out of it because um now what people are like culture appreciation ha-ha which is cool but you know people take it the wrong way sometimes or it's a little bit extreme or you know it's just things are a lot more sensitive nowadays so yeah I mean I'm glad I'm cool with my features now like I accept it cause	

	<p>you know I do have indigenous features we have features that other people don't have which is cool it's really all about like respecting.</p>	
SH:	<p>Instead of looking like a basic white person</p>	
AR:	<p>Oh goodness you know I mean I try not dog but -but yeah you know every white person looks the same and we're different cause we have darker skin, or we have a bigger nose, or we have bigger cheeks or lips you know and yeah, it's -it's better now I mean for me if you're asking me personally and I feel better now about it so yeah</p>	
SH	<p>thank you!</p>	
AR:	<p>you're welcome!</p>	