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English 1121 O428

FINAL PORTFOLIO

Unit 1:Mi Loca

The word “Loca” can be used as a way to greet a close friend that you know well. I use the word as to say hello, “Hola mi loca” or “ Dime a ver mi loca” which is what I would say to a friend when I see or communicate with them. I would also use it on friends only because I know their possible reaction toward it. When I was in high school I would use this word with my small group of friends when we were able to talk during lunch or on our way home. We would call each other “Mi loca” because it was one of those words that we said to or another that did not make us feel some type of way about how each other's break was. When we came back from holidays and break we would ask each use this word to ask. “Loco”/ Loca” might just be considered the Hispanic way of saying “Bro”. The high school that I went to was mixed but mostly filled with Hispanics and it was a word that was used every day and everywhere. Throughout the school building or outside of it, this word was used in all sorts of ways like “Ella lo qué es una loca”, “Klk mi loca”, “Estoy bien mi loco”, “Tu si qué estas bien loco” just to name a few. The word “ Loco” was in almost any sentence in any conversation that we had.

We Hispanics, use this word to express our thoughts about something which can be used as “¿Tu ta loco?”, which translates to “ Are you crazy?”. This could either be said when someone has done something “stupid” or what they did was considered “crazy”. It could also be used as

just calling someone “Loco” because of their personality and that they are a fun person. When considering someone to be a fun person who does weird things we usually say “ Tu eres un loco”. Say “Tu ta loco” can also be used in a way to say “are you crazy I ain’t doing that”. Which could mean that the idea that they brought up is too crazy or just something you won’t do. Another way that we would use the word to express that an idea is “crazy” or just too much is “Yo ni loco hago eso”. Which would translate to “I would not do that, not even if I were crazy” that in other words can just mean that it is not something they would do.

There are ways that this word can be used to talk about other people in a way of asking what they are doing when having a conversation. There are times that when we use the word, it might not make sense when it gets translated. For instance, when we say “¿Y qué lo qué hace este loco?” when they see someone doing something questionable. In English, this would “and what is this crazy doing” which does not make sense and just sounds weird. When it is used in this way it could also just be someone asking “what is this guy doing?”. When it is used in “Tu parece una loca”, could mean that what you are wearing makes you look crazy/weird or that you simply look crazy. It could also mean that what you are doing seems crazy either in an insane type of crazy or that you look hilariously crazy. These are just some of many ways that the word “Loca” can be used the right way.

There are many ways to use the word but it all depends on how you use it. There are conversations where “Loco” or “Loca” can be very offensive or even rude. “Loco” is a word that anyone can use with friends or others but you have to know how and when to use it. For those people of the Hispanic community or do not speak Spanish and do not know how to use the word here are some examples of how not to use it. The first example of how not to use it is with the wrong people, for instance, never call your parents “loco” because it is very disrespectful. Also

as a Hispanic person calling our parents “loco” is very disrespectful and our punishments are different from other kids so we do not dare and call them that. Another way of not using it is walking up to some random Hispanic or Spanish-speaking person and calling them “Un loco” because it will make them upset. Calling a random person “Loco” is something you should not say because you never know how they are going to react. Anyone can use the word but they just have to think of how they are going to use it when to use it and who they say it to.

To wrap things up, the words “Loco” or “Loca” is a word that uses Hispanics use among our community. It is a word that anyone can use whether it is with a Hispanic person or even your friends. There are ways in which this word can offend people so that is something to watch out for. It is important to never call a parent “Loca” or “Loco” for the reason that it is very rude. It can be used in many ways within a friend group or family. It is not ideal to call a stranger this word because their reaction towards it is unknown.

Unit 2: What is life in a cage



Have you ever wondered what it is to live in a cage with other people? Well, imagine that you are forced into a metal cage with other people and having to share what you sleep on with a stranger. Imagine not seeing your family for a long time, not having anyone to comfort you when you need it. Things would be a lot more difficult if you had a baby to try and keep warm. What if you or your baby got sick from one of those people with cold nights and denied health care. You might think that the situation you live in is bad but at least you can assure that you have a warm bed to sleep in. You know that you have enough food that goes in your stomach, clean clothes on your back, and a shower to use every day. One other thing you know that you can do is leave your house or apartment to go outside. Well, you might have food on your table, clean clothes, access to health care, a warm bed to sleep in, but that is not the case for migrant kids who can't leave these places.

According to sources, there are “Over 3000 children were separated from their parents at the border.” Migrant kids who cross the U.S. border get separated from their parents and spend months in U.S. facilities locked in cages. These kids range from all ages from months old to the age of teenagers, some of these teenagers have babies they have to look after as well as themselves. We do know that these kids are kept in facilities for *shelter* purposes until their cases get solved or allowed to return home to their families after months. There are so many things that

happen behind the doors of these facilities that we have no idea about. These kids go through so much every day in these places and we know nothing about it. The kids in these places are forced to sleep in cold cages. Some of the things these kids go through have not been spoken about as much as they should. In these camps, kids are “being forced to take care of one another after being separated from their parents; and being laughed at when they cry.”. Instead of being comforted in any kind of way, these kids get laughed at by the guards of these places. Kids from these places have stated in a letter sent signed by [Rebecca Marton](#) that, “The guards have started spraying this chemical everywhere, all over everything, all the time. It causes a terrible reaction on our skin. When we ask for medical assistance, they just give us some cream to put over it. The spray also hurts our airways. When I blow my nose, blood comes out. They are treating us like animals. One person fainted and was taken out, I don't know what happened to them. There is no fresh air.”. These are not conditions to keep kids in because of those harmful chemicals that they can escape from because they are not allowed to go outside for fresh air. These chemicals are making these kids sick and it could eventually kill them. Things like this should not be happening to anyone because they should get the care that they need. You would not like to be denied the care that you need when you are sick.

Kids that have experience with living in the camps where they are kept in cages have their own stories about what happens. An anonymous 16-year-old girl from one of these camps says “We are in a metal cage with 20 other teenagers with babies and young children. We have one mat we need to share with each other. It is very cold.”, written in a Newsweek article. This girl tells us that they have to sleep on a shared mat where it’s cold, inside of metal cages with 20 other teens and babies. What this girl says brings my attention because it is wrong and inhuman that they have to lie in these conditions for such a long time. These kids do not deserve to be cold at night

and have to share a floor mat. These kids should be at home with their parents in a warm bed with food in their stomachs and not in a crowded metal cage. These are treatments that kids have to go through without a choice but we can change that by getting informed of what's happening. We need to inform ourselves first to make actions happen because these kids should be at home with their families.

The statements that come from these kids that have no choice but to live through this awful experience can be heartbreaking. The kids in these cages are alone with no one by their side to care for them, sometimes the only family they have by their side is a sibling that they have to look after. In an article where Clara Long has a collection of statements that come directly from these kids she writes. "On my first day at Clint, I spoke with an 11-year-old boy who was caring for his 3-year-old brother. Both were fending for themselves in cinder-block cells with dozens of other children for three weeks.". Kids at a young age should not have to worry about taking care of their siblings all alone when they should be with their parents. Kids should not have to be sleeping in a cinder-block cell because if we can be at home in our warm beds they should too. How would you like to be forced to sleep in a cinder-block cell just like these kids?

Some people might think that these kids should not have crossed the border to the United States without papers. Yes, these kids should not have crossed the border but that doesn't give any reason to treat them the way they are in these cages. These kids have gone through so much in their journey of crossing over to the U.S. In an article by Salil Shetty "Health professionals report that as many as six in ten migrant women and girls are raped on the journey.". This says that 6 out of 10 females who go on this journey end up getting raped. Getting raped is not something that anyone should experience. To make things worse some females do not have the same luck of just being left there after being raped. In the same article by Shetty, they state, "And

activists repeatedly raise concerns that abducted women and girls are vulnerable to trafficking.”. Females not only get raped but some get taken against their will with no escape and fear of death. These women get sold for sex to some disgusting humans. So having to go through such a journey where females are abducted, where people do not make it through the whole journey, and having to get locked is something that we should adjust to as normal? No person should deserve to sleep on the floor with many other people where they get all types of illnesses. These same people say that these kids and grown adults who cross the border make the country look bad. The previous president is one of those people who believe this. As said by Kusi News, "President Trump slammed the Biden Administration on Fox News for their immigration policies saying, “people are just pouring into our country and they will destroy our country. They will destroy our country.”. Ex-President Trump is saying that immigrants are what make this country look bad.

Those who are against having kids in cages wonder what the country is doing to change this system. This is because it makes the country look bad. After all, innocent kids are being mistreated and separated from their families. Some may ask, what is being done against this? Or, how is this happening today with the new president? Well, President Joe Biden has been doing things to fix what the previous president, Donald Trump did not do to change things dealing with immigration. It is said by Aljazeera that, “United States President Joe Biden has signed three executive orders aimed at undoing some of his predecessor Donald Trump’s most divisive and hardline immigration policies related to family separation, border security, and legal immigration.”. This is great that one of the first things that our new President is doing is to change things for the country. This means that with these orders immigrant families can not be separated from their kids at the border. This is only the beginning to solving this issue, there is

still more to be done. Words quoted from the president by the author of this article are, “We are going to work to undo the moral and national shame of the previous administration that literally, not figuratively, ripped children from the arms of their families,”. President Biden wants to change this that will relieve the shame that was put upon by President Trump. the issue of kids in cages and the President from before and now really make the country look bad with what they do or say. Although Biden has been doing things to fix the issue against kids in cages there has been said that he still keeps kids in cages. As said by Kusi News, President Joe Biden’s administration has tried for weeks to keep the public from seeing images from the border like those released Monday." Biden's administrations have been hiding the fact that there are still kids living in cages.

So now that you know about some of the awful things that migrant kids have to deal with when living in a cage. There are many other articles and stories based around kids in cages with statements that come from kids. After finding out about the things that happen to these kids at these places and their treatment, one may question themselves. How can someone have the heart and guts to treat these kids like this? It is a good thing that our new president has been doing things to change the system but that is not enough. There is more that needs to be done against kids being in cages and immigration as a whole. The acts that this new President takes will change things for the better and we as the people can make that happen too. If we as the people who are against the “kids in cages” system continue to get informed changes will happen sooner. We can use any sort of platform to share information with others whether you have a large/small social media platform or even in a group of friends. Actions we can take are protesting, making signs, writing articles, and even more so that these kids can go back home safe.

Citations

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Unit 3: Sick of Home

Sick of Home

Final Reflection

Now that the semester has come to an end there are times I think my writing has not improved. There have been some ups and downs with my writing and my writing process. At the beginning of this semester, I did not feel my writing was as good and that my creative skills for writing were not good. Now I can feel like my writing has improved in a way that I can feel more confident about the things that I write about. There are still times where I am writing something and just think that it does not sound right but I just keep writing and look over it in the end. I get stuck and stare at my writing think that “this doesn’t sound how I want it to sound” or “Am I writing this right?” but I try to keep going. It has improved but I just do not see it as much because I am always doubting myself.

Something that changed was writing my rough drafts where I spent hours or so it felt like hours staring at a screen stressing. Now I know that I can take a break from trying to write something so that I can refresh my mind and eyes. I used to feel frustrated thinking about new assignments because all I thought was “If I had a rough time writing the last this next will be worst!”. Things have gotten better but it’s nowhere near perfect. I also had some trouble writing Unit 2 because when it came to using quotes from an article. What I would do is use a quote and just rephrase it instead of writing about what I was able to understand from it.

My favorite assignment given was Unit 3 where I had the option to make a comic book that I had never made before. I liked this assignment because I was able to be creative and try

something new. My least favorite unit to write would have to be Unit 1. This is only because I had a bit of a hard time picking a discourse word to write about. At the end of the assignment, I have learned that I can write a whole article based on one word.

For me to pick what I would be writing about I had to brainstorm some ideas. There would be times where I got stuck and didn't even have a single idea so I tried not to stress myself. Some of my topics for my writing have been spontaneous ideas. There would be times where I was doing something else but with the assignment in mind and the idea just came to my head. After getting an idea of what to write I would start to research or think more about how I will get my ideas written down.

Having to start college online can be frustrating because due dates just feel like they are far away but then they feel like all of them are falling on top to crush me. The semester before this one made me feel like this class would be as confusing as it was because the professor would say one thing and repeat another and the due dates were not as clear. Now I know where to make changes using the feedback from the professor which was something that I didn't get much last semester. Which has affected my writing because I had struggled with where to start how to write it and all sort of other issues along the way.

One thing that has been sort of a challenge is writing what I understood from the quote that I used in my own words. I have not overcome it, I still need to work on it. An example from my writing, "These kids instead of being comforted in any kind of way get laughed at by the guards of these places.". I had written this from my Unit 2 after a quote and I can see that I am just saying the same things like the quote just in different words. I can replace this with something like, "The guards who are supposed to watch over then kids and make sure they are ok, are the

ones who are hurting the kids”. I noticed this is due to feeling stressed and rushed so that is something that I need to work on.

Having to revise my assignments has been something I am not so comfortable doing only because I have no idea what to fix. I just sit there looking at my work like “what do I need to fix?” and “ Is it any good now?”. Revising my work is something that I am not pleased with doing because I have no idea if it sounds better or worse than what I had started with. There are even times where I just think that I am fine with the grade that I got and I don’t need to change anything.