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Unit 1 Writing Assignment

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### Challenges that Latin females face in society

“It’s important to have strong images of women out there, women who aren’t afraid of expressing themselves, women who aren’t afraid of taking chances, women who aren’t afraid of their own power.” That’s what actress, Gina Torres said. Being a woman in this society is extremely difficult, we are often being minimized and overlooked. Now imagine being a Latin woman. Not only are you going to be attacked due to your gender but about your ethnicity as well. There’s been many times in which I have been kicked to the curb and judged because of the color of my skin and because of my biological body parts that I have no control over. And although I have been torn down more times than I can count, I’ve never let those comments get to me. I know that I’m a hardworking, ambitious, intelligent and determined female. My goal is to become a criminal defense attorney and I won’t stop until I have accomplished it.

As a Mexican American women I have battled many situations in which I have been astonished to actually go through discrimination. When I was 16 my family and I decided to go to Atlantic City. One night, my sister and I went for a walk and we were in front of a Casino. We saw a white homeless man fighting with a group of young black males. The white man’s cap fell and my sister was kind enough to pick it up so she can give it to him. It wasn’t later until the white man saw her with his cap and yelled, “GIVE ME MY CAP BACK YOU BEANER. YOU’RE TRYING TO STEAL MY CAP YOU WETBACK.” You can only imagine how my

sister and I felt. I have never felt anything like that. I mean I knew discrimination occurs in the world but to feel it personally was just beyond me. It isn't my fault that I come from Mexican descendants, it's not my fault that I have it running in my blood. In fact, I am proud because one day I'll walk across the stage and get my Bachelors Of Science and then graduate from a law school, all while being the daughter of two mexican immigrants. My parents might have entered the country illegally but they are still my parents. Being called out for being Latina doesn't phase me at all. Why would I be mad for having a beautiful culture and country? If anything it only makes me stronger. I have a bright future ahead of me and I will become the attorney I want to be. As part of the Latin Woman community I know how hard it is to be seen and be called out just for the color of my skin. I asked my friend, Maria Del Carmen Barrera Guererro, who was salutatorian of my graduating class of 2020, how it felt to be a Latin female in this society and the challenges she has faced. She continued by saying, "Being a Latin female definitely comes with many challenges. I'm not only a part of a minority group in the United States who are rarely represented in the government but I am female, a gender who is looked down upon as weak and incapable of many things men have accomplished throughout the years.." It is hard being a Latin Female because not only do we have to worry about the world accepting us for our ethnicity but how we contribute to society as well.

Should I fear being a woman or should I fear being Latina? That's the thing, I shouldn't fear any of them. I should be able to feel safe in my own skin and feel powerful. I know that I'm capable of many great things but why does society constantly make me believe as though I am capable of just accomplishing the minimum? Agreeing with that belief, I interviewed my cousin Lizbeth Morales. She attended Bard High School Early College Queens, graduating with her associates degree at just the age of 18. I asked her, what challenges do you face being a Latin

female in this society? She replied with, I feel that the only way for me to be recognized in the world is to have a career. I constantly feel the need to prove myself because I fear being another statistic. I also feel as if I have to be careful with the way I act with others. Since there's stereotypes as to how latinas act (being loud or being "ratchet")." Latinas are known as being loud but females are also known as being dramatic. Now imagine when you combine both terms, Latin females. One would believe that, that's a problem but not all females are dramatic and not all Latins are loud. We are constantly being thrown into stereotypes just so that we are placed in groups. The social stigma for latin females is that they'll get pregnant in high school and dropout or just simply dropout. In the article, "Study: Latina Girls Have Highest Dropout Rate by Suzanne Gamboa it states, "The report, citing Census Bureau statistics, said the dropout rate for Latinas ages 16 to 24 is 30 percent, compared with 12.9 percent for blacks and 8.2 percent for whites." It is evident that statistics has shown that Latinas are constantly dropping out from college more than any other race. Being a Latina comes with many challenges, we are often trying to fulfill the void that society has created in us that we start to believe in our cultures belief. Such as, that we belong in the kitchen, that we shouldn't worry about college because we'll get married and be too busy taking care of the kids, husband and house. That there is no need for us to bring some sort of income into our homes because we will be dependent on our husbands and many more that you can already imagine.

My dream is to become a criminal defense attorney because I believe in the justice system and helping those who are in need of help. But there is just one thing that I don't agree with. It is the fact that because I'm a Latin female I earn less than what a male makes. In the data company, PayScale for "Gender Pay Gap Statistics for 2020" the data shows that "measures pay for men and women with the same job and qualifications" is the difference of \$70,000 when it

comes to all men and Latin Females. Throughout history women had to fight to acquire the same rights as men but it seems to me that the fight has never ended. In fact, it has just started. We are in 2020 and we're still facing inequalities. Why should women be seen any less than a man? It must be my biased opinion or the truth but women could never compete with men. Women are too superior and powerful to be on the same level as men. Women carry a whole human being in their wombs for nine months and are still the one to give birth. A woman gives life to a man so why is it that we are constantly being disrespected? If anything, women should be praised for all the great things they achieve.

“People think of Latina Women as being fiery and fierce, which is usually true. But I think the quality that so many Latinas possess is strength. I'm very proud to have Latin blood.” That's what Zoe Saldana said. In addition, I too am proud to be a latina. More specifically I am proud to have Mexican parents who have taught me to always try my hardest in order to reach my goals. Furthermore, I am a Latin female who will become a criminal defense attorney, regardless of what anyone has to say. I live in a society in which people are close minded and old fashioned. But it is alright because that won't ever hold me back or my fellow latin females from becoming who we want to be.