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Heritage University BLE

Culturally Embedded Lesson (NEH, 2013)

Created for BLE 411 History and Theory of Bilingual Education

**Descriptor:** (Resource: PBS Education Plans on Latinos in America) This lesson deals with the many preconceptions and stereotypes about Latinos and how they have immigrated to the United States. Students will discuss their own experiences of being stereotyped and then review current studies and graphs to contrast assumptions with realities.

**Lesson Procedure:**

**Pre-Activity:**

Have you ever been judged unfairly because of how you look, the way you speak or the type of name you have? How does it feel? Is it fair or unfair? Has anyone ever made assumptions about you because of your age, your ethnicity or your gender?

Write your responses to these questions and share in small groups. Discuss and define the term “stereotype.”

**Part I: Examining Stereotypes**

Prompt: “Who are Latinos? In this activity, you will study a recent poll that examines attitudes about Latinos, particularly through the media. Next, you’ll examine actual data on the Latino population of the United States. Your job: to sort out the myths and the stereotypes from the realities.

Read pages 1-6 of *The Impact of Media Stereotypes on Opinions and Attitudes Toward Latinos.* Discuss the following questions in small groups

- In reviewing the study, describe three to four of the key findings identified by the researchers.
- What types of methods did the researchers use to measure attitudes about Latinos?
- List some of the positive and negative stereotypes associated with Latinos, according to the study.
• What types of assumptions do some non-Hispanics make about Latino Americans when it comes to the legality of their residence in the United States? How is this demonstrated in the case of Sebastien de la Cruz? Cite examples.
• What are the TV and film roles most associated with Latinos? What effect does this have on perceptions of Latinos, according to the researchers?
• How does language make a difference when it come to terms like “illegal alien” versus “undocumented immigrant”?
• Does your personal experience of Latino stereotypes and media roles reflect or challenge the findings of the study? Explain.

Part II: Statistics versus Stereotypes

Now that you have explored research on stereotypes, contrast this information with actual statistics by reviewing the Pew Center infographic, Hispanics in the U.S., and its reports, The 10 Largest Hispanic Origin Groups and Hispanic High School Graduates. You will work in small groups to examine these reports. Each group will elect a presenter to share findings with the rest of the class. You’ll need to take notes from each group presentation for your final project. (Five groups with different reports)

Part III: Putting the Pieces Together

Use the Stereotypes versus Statistics Organizer (one per student) to compare and contrast the myths and realities.

How do the demographics line up against the stereotypes? Here are some common stereotypes. You may wish to address others.

• “Latinos are mostly foreign-born and often lack legal residence status in the U.S.”
• “Hispanics are less educated”
• “Latinos are more likely to be on welfare”
• “They don’t want to learn English”
Part IV: Optional Closing Project

As a blogger for a prominent news site, you receive a call from your editor early one morning: a well-known politician was on national TV the night before describing Latinos with a lot of stereotypical language. Your editor wants you to write a piece sorting out Latino stereotypes from actual statistics. You can present your write-up in paragraph form (as if it were a blog), using prezi.com
Stereotypes versus Statistics Organizer

Latinos, like many other groups, face stereotypes (assumptions, generalizations and judgments). While we are often aware of stereotypes in an informal way, social scientists document such attitudes and what fuels them. Use the research assigned to complete the following graph.

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<tr>
<th>STEREOTYPE</th>
<th>ACTUAL STATISTICS</th>
<th>REFLECTION</th>
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Stereotypical statements adapted from the study *The Impact of Media Stereotypes on Opinions and Attitudes Towards Latinos*, Latino Decisions, 2012.
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