

Beyond Crisis Mode: Humanizing Youth Migration to the United States

CREATIVE PROJECT ASSESSMENT

Pick a format that most speaks to your creative strengths. Options could include:

- 1) A poem about the youth migrant experience (acrostic poems, “found” poems using words and phrases from the readings and videos, a “Where I am From” Poem, a series of haikus).
- 2) A letter from an unaccompanied child migrant to a friend or family member describing their experience. The letter may detail their journey, their hopes, their struggles.
- 3) An illustrated map or comic strip detailing the experiences of youth migrants (causes for leaving, struggles along the way, challenges at the border).
- 4) An imaginary interview between a journalist and a youth migrant.
- 5) A children’s book about a young migrant (causes for leaving, struggles along the way, challenges at the border). Be sure to include illustrations.
- 6) An imaginary journal or diary detailing a young migrant’s journey, including the reasons for leaving, the challenges they face along the way, and experiences.

Response

01/10/18:

Hello, My name is Alejandra Hernandez! I am 11 years old and I am from the Venezuelan capital of Caracas. My parents are Ricardo Hernandez and Maria Hernandaz. This is day 1 of writing in this Journal. My mama told me to record my feelings and thoughts of my journey to America. I am really scared for what’s ahead. We have to leave because of the danger in Venezuela. There are so many gangs and violence in the streets. Furthermore, The Police do nothing while Gangs go rampant. However, It saddens me that I must leave my country but if it will give my sister and me a better chance in life, I will take it. This is goodbye for now.

01/12/18:

Today is the day and I am scared. My Papa told me to take what I can carry, We are fortunate because we have a car. If we are lucky, We could be in Columbia in a day. This will be a short recording, I must help my parents pack.

01/14/18:

Hello again, I have just got into Columbia. Columbia seems to be better than Venezuela but There are still gangs present. My papa had to bribe one to let us go, I was scared. The corruption was present in Smaller towns that we just passed by. I like to collect a rock from every country we pass by. I now have two rocks, One from Venezuela and now Columbia. We will be taking a boat to Costa Rica. I am scared because no one in my family knows how to swim. I miss Venezuela and my extended family. We will be waiting until the morning to get on a boat.

01/15/18:

We are on the boat right now. It looks really old and that it will fall off any moment. We had to wait another 4 hours because the boat only had the capacity for 12 passengers. I am on the boat right now, I am tired but I must watch my sister. Oh I forgot to mention, Her name

is Grace after my Grandma. She is the cutest thing but cries too much. I always feel bad because I never know what to do when she does. My mama always looks so tired, I hope that when she gets to

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America, she will take a break. This will be my Final Entry until I reach Nicaragua. 01/19/18:

Hello Journal, I am sorry for the long wait. We had to wait for my Sister to recover. She seemed to catch something on the trip into Nicaragua. My Family was so scared because she seemed so sick. Furthermore, There was no doctor to treat her. We prayed for her survival, My mama would stick by Grace the whole day while I got water. But she got better and we started our journey to America. Looking on the streets, so many people are living in poverty. I see kids starving on the streets while whole families beg for food. It aches me that I can't help. I do not care for Politics but we all know about the Corruption. Maybe in the future, I will become president of Venezuela so I can end all this corruption. Our family will be taking a 4 day rest in El Salvador. However, We had left our car in Columbia so we were walking.

01/24/18:

My Family and I are in Honduras, We have passed through so many towns. My feet ache and I can't wait until we get to El Salvador. The Jungles in Central America are not as bad as the jungles in Venezuela. I have added three rocks to my collection. They are from Costa

Rica, Nicaragua and Honduras.

01/28/18:

The days in El Salvador have been fun. We have been in a camp for Migrants. While here, I have made some friends, They are Carlos and Jonathan. We would play Soccer with the tin can and hide n seek in the tents. We will be leaving today and I will miss my friends. However, My Mama told me that this is normal and that I will make new friends. This part of the journey will be easier. My Papa had called for a car to the bottom part of Mexico. I could not stand another day of walking.

01/32/18: I have just rested and now we are in Mexico. It has been a rough few days because of all the violence trying to get into Mexico. We will be taking a train to Oaxaca. The trip will be on the top of the train which scares me. I plan to hold tight to my sister.

02/02/18:

We have arrived in the city of Oaxaca. My papa told me that the dangerous part has not arrived yet and to be cautious. The city is nice but I must leave for Leon. I will inform all of you when I can.

02/05/18:

I just met a gang on the trip to Leon. They asked my father for money but when he said he had none that they will kill us. I was scared because this trip would've been for nothing.

However, We were saved by Armed militias who were patrolling Mexico looking for Cartels. We were grateful and they offered to take us to Torreon. I am in a helicopter and this looks so cool. I will talk later! 01/06/18: The trip to Torreon was so fast, I was glad for the soldiers. I will always be thankful for the soldiers who try their hardest to make this place safer. I will be sleeping today, see you tomorrow.

02/07/18:

My parents were trying to arrange a car straight to Ciudad Juarez. It has been hard for us because no one wants to go through all those gangs. They say, They will only take us to Chihuahua. We accepted but this means more risk. I must pack again. Today is the 7th of February. I have kept my collection of rocks safe. I now have Columbia, Venezuela, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, Mexico and Nicaragua. My favorite is Venezuela,

It reminds me of home.

02/13/18:The trip to Chihuahua was pretty calm. We were grateful, we also have gotten a bus to Ciudad Juarez. It will be taking off right now, I will stop writing. I am running right of paper to use. The Final Entry will be until I get to Ciudad Juarez

02/18/18:

Hello my Journal, This will be the Final Entry for you guys. It has been long and scary but I am almost here. I am so happy and my parents are too. No more long trips in cars or walking. Also My birthday is in 6 days, My dream gift is a soccer ball. However, The last obstacle will be getting Asylum. We have papers but We must wait a long time. Our number is 7302. They are processing number 6789 right now. This will be my final goodbye until I get more paper. I will be in Ciudad Juarez which looks good enough. Good bye everyone who reads this.