## Cultural and Linguistic Competence through Social Justice

L. J. Randolph Jr. (University of North Carolina, Wilmington)

Online workshop presented for the Center for Educational Resources in Culture, Language and Literacy (CERCLL) September 12, 2020

## Goals of this Workshop



## Participants can...

Explain the how social justice builds on existing theory, research, and practice in language education.

# Goals of this Workshop



## Participants can...

Explore how social justice approaches can seamlessly be implemented into their current language teaching practices.

# Goals of this Workshop



## Participants can...

Discuss and share ideas on the implementation of social justice in the language classroom.

# Goals of this Workshop



## Participants can...

Identify and implement appropriate technological tools for resource selection and student engagement.

# Goals of this Workshop



## Participants can...

Imagine how they can work with others to move social justice work forward in their own contexts.

## **Outline**



- 1. Foundations
- 2.Examples
- 3. Discussion

## **My Professional Journey**







## My Language Teaching Philosophy

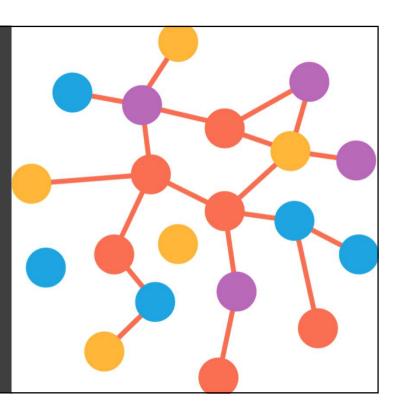


This snarky response to one of my tweets is actually a pretty good description of my approach to teaching. I gladly accept this characterization.

What can you expect from a man whose job is to teach languages
But thinks his job is teaching social justice while teaching languages.

## Social Justice Is ...

What words or phrases do you associate with the term "social justice"?





Replying to @ClicIllinois @staceymargarita and 2 others

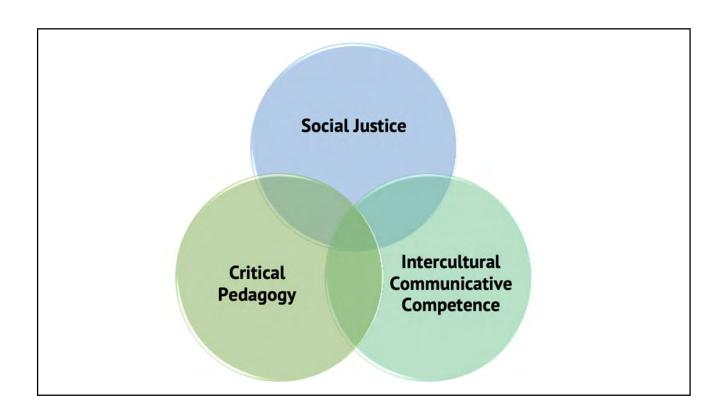
Social Justice is the lens through which all pedagogy should be viewed. It should inform the way we see our students and our instruction, and it should be embedded throughout our lessons.

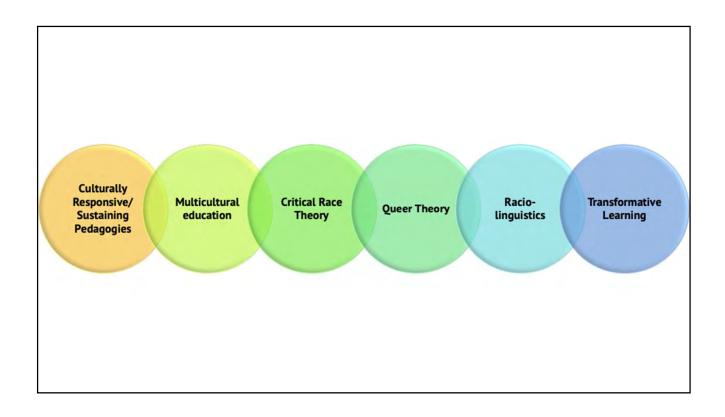


Replying to @ClicIllinois @staceymargarita and 2 others

Not mine, by @Tolerance\_org but oh so good! "Teaching 'social justice' must occur not simply because it's relevant, but so my students can explore how their stories fit into the larger tapestry of a national and global story."

@biblio\_phile #SocialJustice ₩ @OlatheNEA





# Social Justice Is Not...



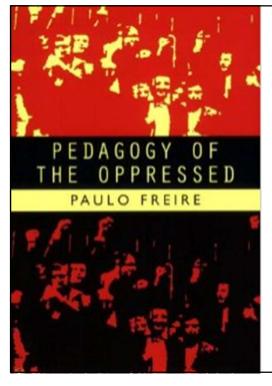
#### LJ Randolph @ProfeRandolph · Jan 2

I guess it depends on what your goals are. I incorporate SJ bc I want my Ss to learn the language & also be critical, compassionate, & reflective global citizens. Btw, don't fool yourself into thinking that avoiding SJ is a more neutral/objective/apolitical stance. It's not.

#### Steve Kaufmann @lingosteve

Replying to @profnoury @judyldubois

Language teachers should help students learn languages and not take advantage of having captive listeners upon whom to impose the teacher's ideas of "social justice".



"There is no such thing as a neutral educational process. Education either functions as an instrument that is used to facilitate the integration of the younger generation into the logic of the present system and bring about conformity to it, or it becomes "the practice of freedom," the means by which men and women deal critically and creatively with reality and discover how to participate in the transformation of their world" (Shaull, 2007, p. 34, emphasis in original).



Being culturally responsive is NOT a set of strategies, pre-determined curriculum, watering down the curriculum, "feel-good" approach, or only for students of some backgrounds. Being culturally responsive is a MINDSET, it's a stance, it's dispositions. - Dr. Sonia Nieto #WIDA2019

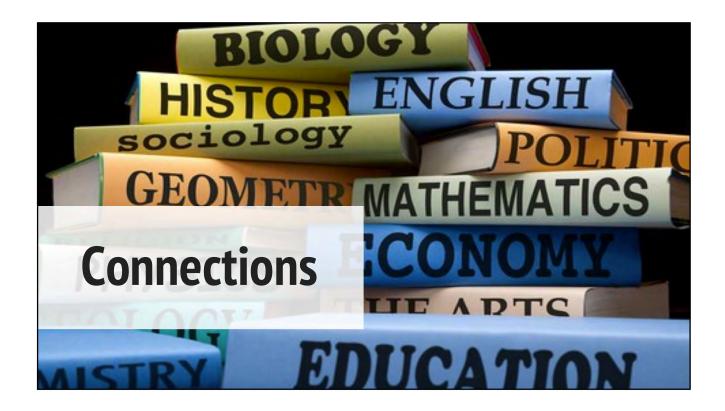


Dear #langchat teachers, if your resolution is to create a culturally responsive classroom and advocate for social justice, please do not portray marginalized communities as victims in need of being rescued. Introduce instead the work of grassroot movements

# Standards















Replying to @weteachlang @DiegoOjeda66 and 3 others

Social justice is the fiber of how I teach/celebrate cultures through lang & it's shared history/experiences which are left out of the current (traditional approach) education & national dialogue. I intentionally create time for history & current events connected to Latinx people



Teachers: my curriculum is so packed I don't have time for #BlackHistoryMonth ...

Same Teachers: Look at these 653 cute Valentines activities I found for my class!

## Traditional Approaches to the Study of Cultures

(Galloway, 1985; Omaggio Hadley, 2001)



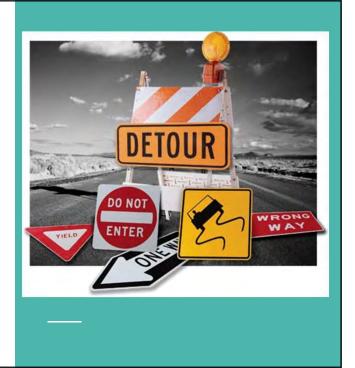








Think about a time when you implemented (or considered implementing) culture in a critical and meaningful way in your classroom. What are the challenges of engaging students critically with the study of culture?



## **Comparisons, Cultures, & Communities**

#### World-Readiness Standards

**Comparisons:** Learners access and evaluate information and diverse perspectives that are available through the language and its cultures.

**Cultures:** Interact with cultural competence and understanding.

**Communities:** Communicate and interact with cultural competence in order to participate in multilingual communities at home and around the world.

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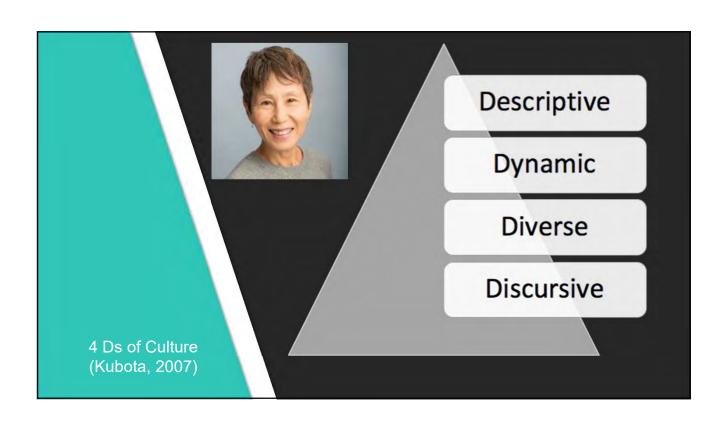
"Most multicultural materials deal wholly with the cultural distinctiveness of various groups and little more. Almost never is there any sustained attention to the ugly realities of systematic discrimination against the same group that also happens to utilize the quaint clothing, fascinating toys, delightful fairy tales, and delicious food. Responding to racist attacks and defamation is also part of the culture of the group under study" (Weinberg, 1982, p. 7).

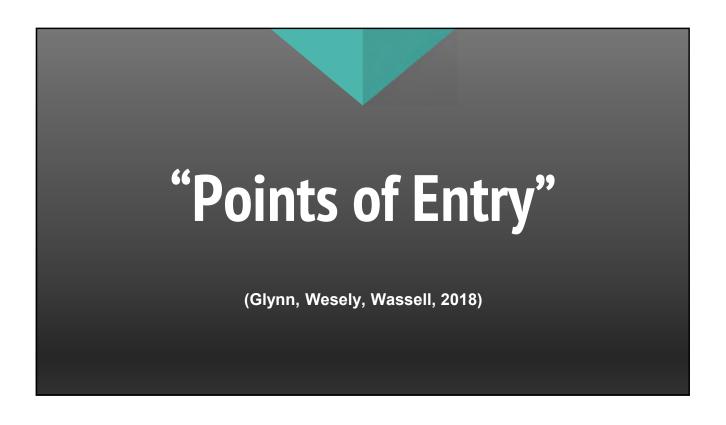
"It is easier to deal with Oktoberfest in the German classroom than to explore the emergence of xenophobia among youth in Germany and to contrast and compare their emergence to parallel patterns in the United States" (Tedick & Walker, 1994, p. 308).

"Yet we don't get our hands too dirty...We don't usually listen to stories of escaping war and finding refuge and racism in a new land, despite the fact that these events occur in settings where so many of the languages taught in classrooms around the world are spoken" (Ennser-Kananen, 2016, p.557).

## **Critical Approaches to the Study of Cultures**

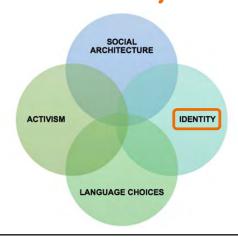








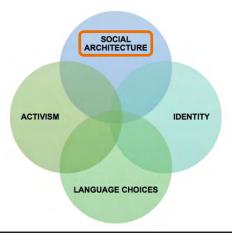
## Linguistic Contexts and Functions: Identity



- identity (Who am I?)
- affiliation (Who are we?)
- conflict
- opinions
- struggle
- discrimination
- present tense
- direct & direct object pronouns

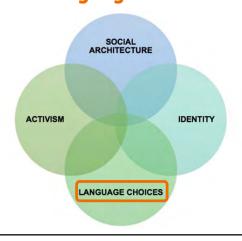
## Linguistic Contexts and Functions:

#### **Social Architecture**



- ideology (What do we believe?)
- historical perspectives
- schools
- languages
- hidden curriculum
- media
- entertainment
- past tense
- auxiliary verbs
- passive voice
- formal and informal contexts

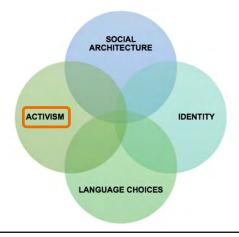
## Linguistic Contexts and Functions: Language Choices



- politics
- power (Who is in control?)
- cultural products and practices
- hybridity
- media
- journalism
- hegemony
- register
- politeness and etiquette
- subjunctive
- direct and indirect discourse

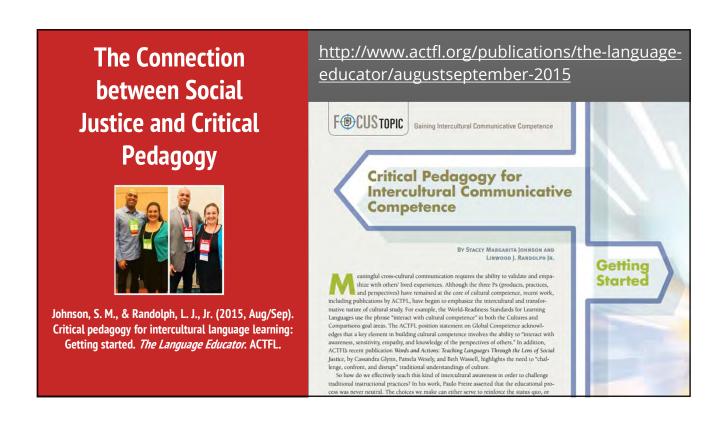
## Linguistic Contexts and Functions:

#### **Activism**



- law
- rights
- resistance
- unity
- social change
- marginalization
- written compositions
- extended discourse
- imperatives
- persuasion
- arguments
- debates

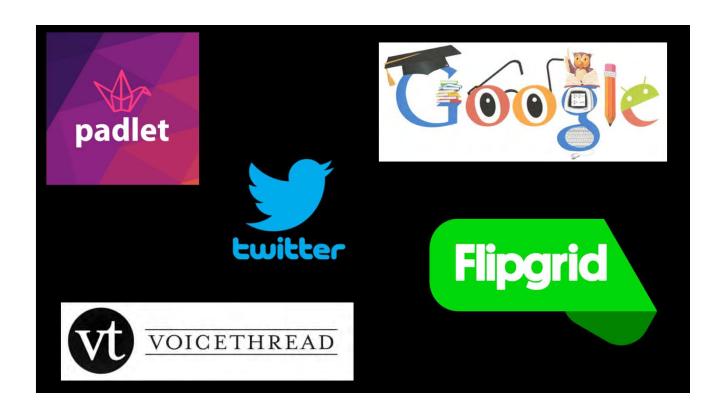
Cultural Themes for Social Justice					
Immigration	Employment	Environment	Linguicism	Racism	
Xenophobia	Violence & weapons	Stereotypes	Homophobia	Sexism	
Poverty	Identity	Education	Institutions	Diversity	



Critical
Pedagogy &
Social Justice:
Guiding
Questions

Who is the source of knowledge?







## No le tengo miedo a las aguas

No Le Tengo Miedo A Las Aguas Juliana S.

Las nueve millas de mar que me separan de una vida nueva es como una rosa.

Una rosa porque cuando uno la mira- es una belleza sin palabras.

Igual como esa rosa, el mar tiene una belleza sin palabras
una belleza que tiene una melodía que puede arrullar a un bebe cuando quiere dormir.

una rosa tiene sus espinas que no deja uno tocarla y lo deja a uno sangrando si no tiene cuidado, y como la rosa, el mar tiene sus peligros,

Las nueve millas de mar que me separan son las nueve millas más peligrosas que yo conozco.

Como las espinas de una rosa, El mar tiene sus olas y sus piedras que nos pueden tragar y hacer

desaparecer en un instante.

Pero no le tengo miedo a las aguas.

Esas nueve millas es lo único que me separa a una nueva vida en un futuro desconocido.

No le tengo miedo a las aguas

### Nappy Headed

## Nappy Headed

y legs stick to the red shiny plastic of this salon chair I'm sitting in, my skin feeling like it's ripping away little by little with every movement I make. The hair dresser pulls at my curls, her long lacquered nails looking like claws when they flash in my peripheral. She tuts under her breath.

"Your mama never put a relaxer in your hair?" I can hear the disdain in her voice as she starts sectioning off and combing. I cringe internally; I liked my hair how it was, my wild, cotton candy afro with stray curls all over.

"Once, when I was younger." I say. "My hair fell out." She tugs sharply on a particularly thick spot.

"She must not have done it right." she says. "Don't worry, when I'm done with you, all the boys will be falling at your feet."

I cringe outwardly this time, mutter some incoherent agreement, and look back at my legs pressed against the candy red chair. I wasn't

#### Father Tongue

Poetry by Victoria Gonzalez

## Father Tongue

In my head, Spanish is a language round and smooth, of rolling and gliding like a stone over frozen lake. Pero, en mi boca, las palabras son jagged and flat, como vidrio roto on my teeth, on my tongue. I was raised by these words extraños, by these words que no puedo hablar.

Spanish has been teasing me like sand between my fingers; a few grains stick in my palm, words I catch in kitchens: plátanos, frijoles negros, but most of the conversation slips through cracks, so fast, y mi padre lo habla y mi tio lo habla—but for me it is a fence I must squeeze through or climb over just to say, "Ojalá que puedas entenderme, abuelito."

Porque Spanish is un leyenda my father did not pass down, but it haunts me, un fantasma that colors my skin, curls my hair, picks me out of the crowd, so people can question my americana pero yo so americana, born and raised in the south, where teachers say my name like broken glass. Where my Spanish hid its face when the other Latinas would conversar, and reappeared for the white kids who asked for my tarea, for me to roll my "r's." My Spanish has whispered: "Estas limitada," that I must write my thoughts in English, that I must pick a side of these walls, fronteras, barreras. It is the language in which I ask, "¿Quien soy yo?" It is the language in which I cannot answer.

But I will have patience because sometimes, español is on the tip of my tongue, like the marcando de los "erres," and sometimes my thoughts sing the song of espanglish, and sometimes when I've been studying, reading the same sentences over and over, las palabras become the waves, y las olas se vuelven a sea, that I can sink into, caressing the sound con mis dientes, con mi lengua saboreyendo las plátanos y las frijoles de Guatemala, de Carolina, de los padres de mi padre.

# Critical Pedagogy & Social Justice: Guiding Questions

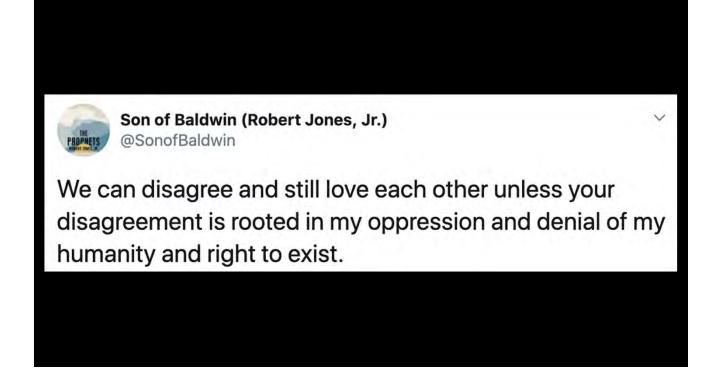
# What resources do we use in the classroom?



## Resource Selection

- Counterpoint/Counternarratives
- Open resources that don't "oversimplify diversity or gloss over controversy and inequality" (Johnson & Randolph, 2015, p. 37)
- Where are you looking?
  - Blogs
  - Twitter
  - o Specialized Community Groups (e.g., ACTFL SIGs, Facebook)
  - Podcasts
  - Your own students
  - Your own research (Are you consuming the perspectives of marginalized groups?)





Critical
Pedagogy &
Social Justice:
Guiding
Questions

How do we promote language proficiency within a critical framework?

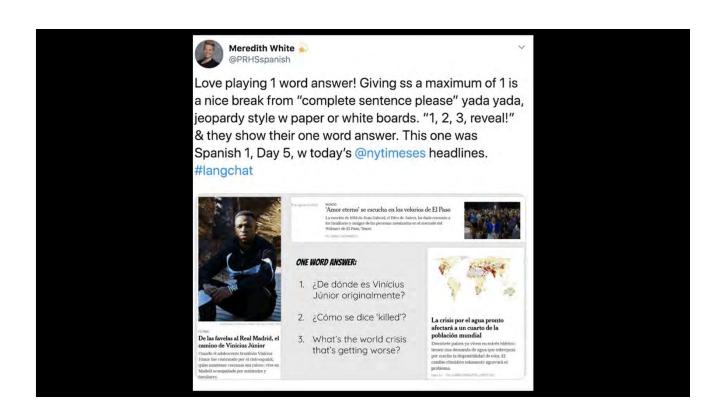


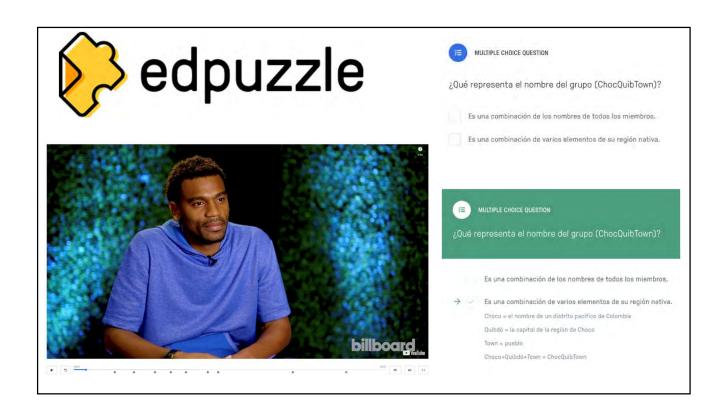
## **Essential Questions**

Language Functions	Essential Questions	Themes
<ul><li>describing myself and others</li><li>talking about the present</li></ul>	How do we construct and "perform" our individual and social identities?	<ul><li>intersectionality</li><li>racial justice</li><li>daily activism/ allyship</li></ul>
<ul><li>narrating in the past</li><li>discussing travel</li></ul>	What are the motivations and outcomes of our life trajectories across geography and time?	<ul><li>immigrant rights</li><li>family/cultural histories</li></ul>

## Interpretive Communication with Authentic Resources (Novice Learners)

- Write a title for each paragraph or section
- Express your reaction with 140 characters or less (Tweet)
- Identify the three most important sentences
- True/False or multiple-choice questions on key points





## **Use Google Docs to...**

- Collaboratively gloss and annotate texts
- Complete an embedded reading activity
  - Find out more here:
     <u>http://www.ceauthres.com/2013/08/</u> (Kara Jacobs)

## El Niágara en bicicleta

caí me llevaron a un hospital en la Emergencia, una enfermera me dijo: "Tranquilo, Bobby, tranquilo"

## El Niágara en bicicleta

un domingo en la mañana caí la calentura me llevaron a un hospital en la Emergencia, el recepcionista escuchaba la lotería grité y una enfermera me dijo: "Tranquilo, Bobby, tranquilo"

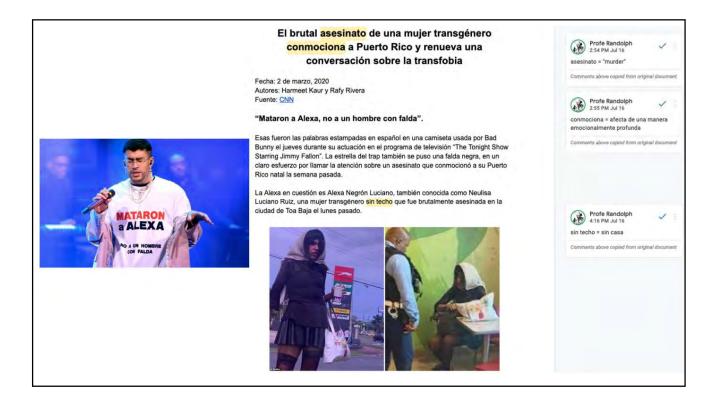
## El Niágara en bicicleta

un domingo en la mañana
cuando menos lo pensaba
caí redondo, como una guanábana,
será la presión
Y me entró la calentura
y me fui poniendo blanco
me llevaron a un hospital de gente
en la Emergencia, el recepcionista escuchaba la lotería
(¡treinta mil pesos!)
"¡Alguien se apiade de mi!"
grité perdiendo el sentido
y una enfermera se acercó y me dijo:
"Tranquilo, Bobby, tranquilo"

## El Niágara en bicicleta

Me dio una sirimba un domingo en la mañana cuando menos lo pensaba caí redondo, como una guanábana, sobre la alcantarilla será la presión o me ha subido la bilirrubina Y me entró la calentura y me fui poniendo blanco como bola de naftalina me llevaron a un hospital de gente (supuestamente) en la Emergencia, el recepcionista escuchaba la lotería (¡treinta mil pesos!) "¡Alguien se apiade de mi!" grité perdiendo el sentido y una enfermera se acerco a mi oreja y me dijo: "Tranquilo, Bobby, tranquilo"





# En español...

- 1. ¿Por qué Bad Bunny se puso una falda negra durante su aparición (appearance) en "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon"?
- 2. ¿Dónde fue asesinada Alexa?
- 3. ¿Qué hizo Alexa en el restaurante que provocó una queja *(complaint)* y eventualmente la llegada de la policía?
- 4. ¿Dónde encontraron el cuerpo de Alexa? ¿Cómo murió?
- 5. ¿Por qué están investigando el asesinato de Alexa como un crimen de odio?
- 6. Además de *(in addition to)* la violencia, ¿qué otros problemas enfrenta la comunidad transgénero según *(according to)* el artículo?

# In English...

- 1. What are your thoughts about the phrase on Bad Bunny's shirt during his performance on Jimmy Fallon ("Mataron a Alexa, no a un hombre con falda")? What does the phrase mean? What are the implications? What message is it trying to convey?
- 2. What do you think of Bad Bunny's advocacy for Alexa? Do you think it was effective? What do you think is the best approach to being an effective advocate or ally? More specifically, what have you found to be the most effective ways to be an ally for a marginalized group to which you do not belong?
- 3. Go to Twitter or Instagram and do a search using the hashtag #SeLlamabaAlexa. Choose a tweet or Instagram post that stands out to you and explain why. Include the link to the Twitter/Instagram post so that your classmates can also view it.

What other strategies have you found to be successful for understanding and engaging with authentic texts?

Critical
Pedagogy &
Social Justice:
Guiding
Questions

How do we respond to controversy?



#### What to Expect

Spanish, like many European languages (including English), has a history characterized by centuries of colonization and imperialistic domination. This history has often diminished, devalued, or erased the language varieties, cultures, and experiences of people who do not reflect Eurocentric identities. We still see those effects today. For example, certain dialects of Spanish spoken in Spain often enjoy more prestige than dialects spoken in, say, Puerto Rico or Mexico. And the literature, culture, and history of Spain are usually taught as their own separate courses, while the literatures, cultures, and histories of all Latin American countries are usually combined into the same course (check out UNCW's Spanish course offerings as an example). In my attempt to flip the narrative and diversify the curriculum, this course will take an intentionally anti-colonial, anti-racist approach. That means that I will often supplement activities from the textbook with readings and other resources that more authentically reflect the racial, linguistic, and cultural diversity of Spanish-speaking people from around the world, with a special emphasis on people from historically underrepresented, minoritized groups. We will use these resources to reinforce linguistic elements like grammar and vocabulary. However, we will also critically examine the perspectives presented in the resources. At times, this will require the use of English, since you have not yet developed the skills in Spanish to engage in this level of dialogue. Also, this will often require us to push ourselves a little beyond our comfort zones in order to grapple with societal problems that matter deeply to us all but that are also highly complex and nuanced with no easy solutions. It is my goal for us to empathize with and celebrate a multitude of diverse lived experiences (including our own) and to learn some Spanish along the way. I hope that you will join me on this transformative journey!

# "Courageous" Conversations Stay engaged Speak your truth Experience discomfort Expect and accept non-closure (Singleton, 2014)

What is a particularly controversial topic in your target culture? What strategies and personal connections could you use to engage students in meaningful, "courageous" discussions about this topic?

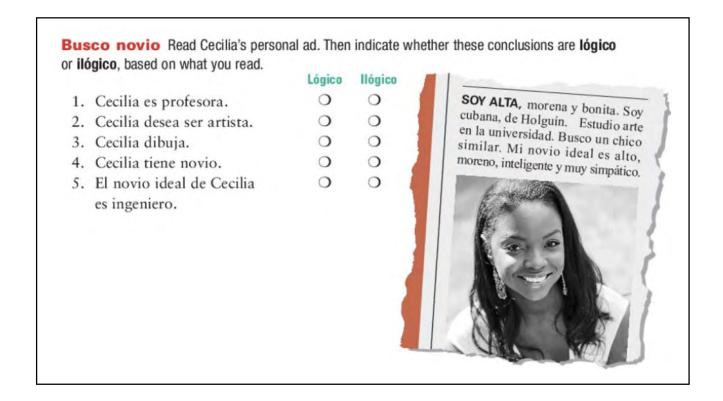
# Example In collaboration with: Ashley Compton (UNCW) Christi Lea (Hoggard High School, Wilmington, NC)

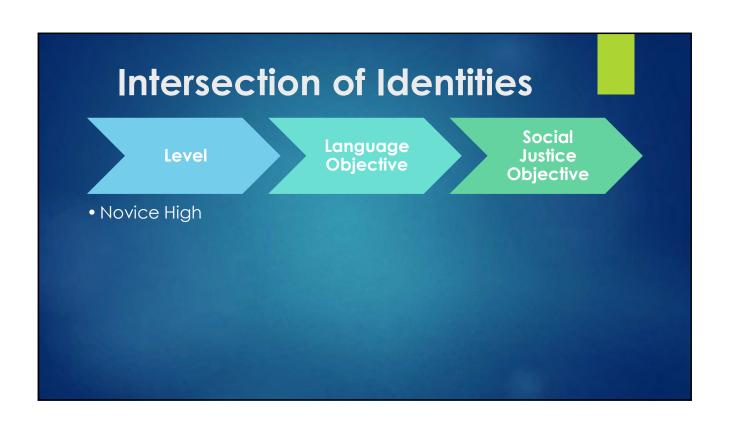
## Identity

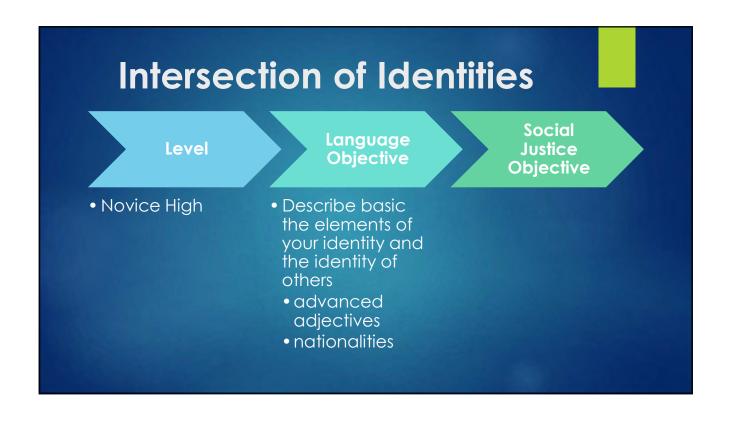
- Spanish Level 2 Class
- Descriptive adjectives, nationalities

simpático	alemán
. Mi hermano es simpático	1. Hans es <u>alemán</u>
. La profesora Martínez es	2. Mis primas son
. Rosa y Teresa son	3. Marcus y yo somos
Nosotros somos	4. Mi tía es
difícil	guapo
. La química es <u>difícil</u> .	1. Su esposo es <u>guapo</u> .
. El curso es	2. Mis sobrinas son
. Las pruebas son	3. Los padres de ella son
. Los libros son	4. Marta es

Completar Indicate the nationalities of these people by selecting the correct adjectives and changing their forms when necessary. NOTA CULTURAL Penélope Cruz es \_\_\_ Alfonso Cuarón es un gran director de cine de México; es \_\_\_\_\_\_. Alfonso Cuarón (1961-) became the 3. Ellen Page y Avril Lavigne son \_ first Mexican winner Giorgio Armani es un diseñador de modas (fashion designer) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. of the Best Director Academy Award for Daisy Fuentes es de La Habana, Cuba; ella es \_\_\_\_\_\_. his film Gravity (2013). 6. Emma Watson y Daniel Radcliffe son actores \_\_\_\_\_\_. 7. Heidi Klum y Michael Fassbender son \_\_\_\_\_\_. 8. Serena Williams y Michael Phelps son \_\_\_\_\_\_.







#### Intersection of Identities Social Language Level **Justice Objective Objective** Novice High Describe basic Discuss and reflect upon the the elements of complexities of your identity and the identity of racial identity others advanced adjectives nationalities

### **Collaborative Activity**

- ▶ Do you think that you have a racial identity? Why or why not?
- How does your racial identity affect your daily life? (scale of 1 to 10)
- Do you think that a person's identity can be used to combat social injustice?

#### Maintaining a Double Identity

- What are the most important aspects of your identity?
- In your life, when/where is it necessary to maintain a "double identity"?
- ▶ Is this systemic (power+oppression)?







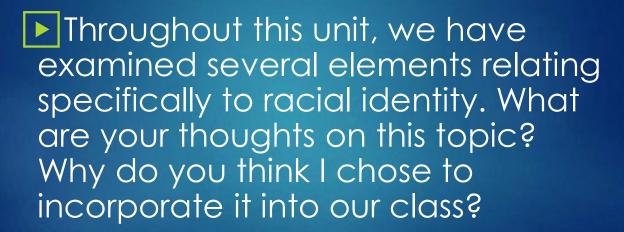




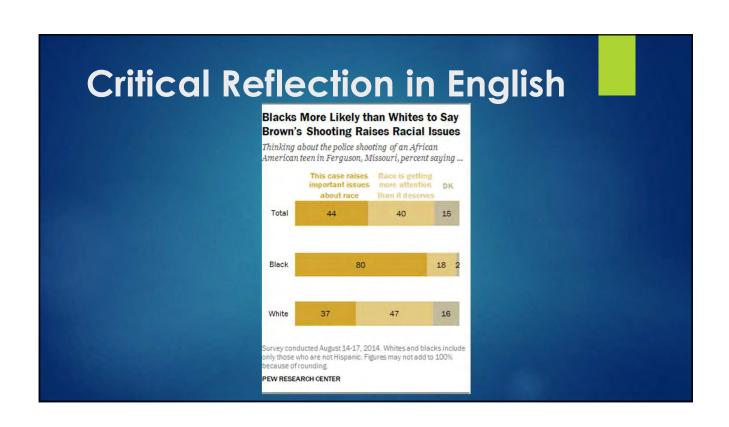








Examine the following poll about people's recognition of the importance of race in the wake of the Michael Brown shooting. Where would you fall on this survey? Do the results of the survey surprise you? Why or why not?



#### Blacks More Likely than Whites to Say Brown's Shooting Raises Racial Issues

Thinking about the police shooting of an African American teen in Ferguson, Missouri, percent saying ...

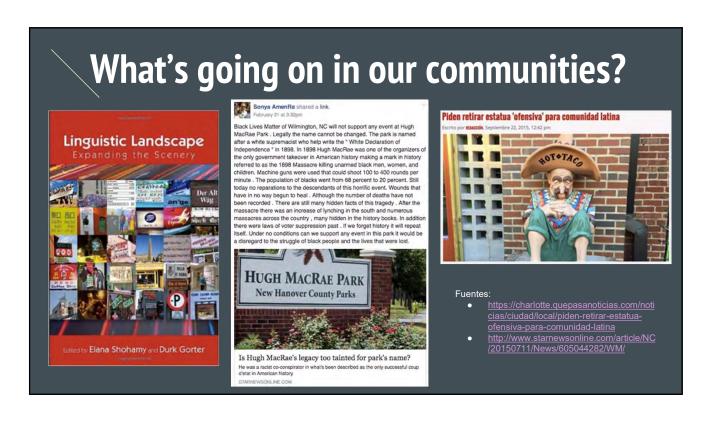
> This case raises important issues about race

Race is getting more attention than it deserves

DK

Critical Reflection in English This case raises Race is getting important issues more attention DK about race than it deserves Total 44 40 15 Black 80 18 White 37 47 16

In what specific ways can you be an ally in your daily life for issues that may not explicitly relate to your own identity (race, gender, sexual orientation, etc.)?













# Thank you!

