

Latinos and Police Violence

Nancy Lozano

BEFORE YOU READ:

- 1) Discuss what these phrases mean: “speak up” and “raise our voices.”
- 2) Look up these vocabulary words: sympathy, threatening, manner, allegedly, discriminate.
- 3) Share what you know about the Black Lives Matter movement.

Black people are not the only race that has problems with police. Latinos also have problems with police. As Latinos, we show our sympathy to

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the Black Lives Matter movement. But we don’t want to speak up about our own problems with the police. We are afraid because many of us are immigrants in this country. We protest for

immigration reform more than we protest police shootings of Latinos.¹

Now and then, you hear about a Latino getting shot. For example, there is the case of Oscar Ramirez in Los Angeles. A police officer shot

him because he “moved his arms in a threatening manner,” according to the *Los Angeles Times*.² Another Latino, Antonio Zambrano-Montes, was shot by police because “he was allegedly throwing rocks at passing cars.”³ We as a community should not let the police treat us this way.



Therefore, Latinos should not focus only on immigration issues. We should march and raise our voices about police violence as well. Police discriminate against African Americans and Latinos. We should unite with each other to stop this from happening.

Sources: 1. NPR, 7-27-15, “Despite Spotlight on Police shooting, Incidents with Latinos Often Forgotten”; 2. “Latino police shootings stay under the radar” adapted by Newsela, 8-12-15; 3. <www.cnn.com/2015/09/11/opinions/reyes-antonio-zambrano-montes>.

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After You Read: Study the Writing

Look closely at how the author uses quotes and sources. What are some similarities and differences in the way she uses the three sources. Note whether she paraphrases the source or quotes directly from it. Note whether she attributes the source in the text.

Discuss how the use of sources makes her argument more or less effective. Are there places where she could have added sources to make her argument stronger?

Notice the use of “for example” and “another” in the second paragraph. How do these words help the reader make sense of the text? Here are some more words that help a writer flow from detail to detail: for instance, in addition, furthermore, finally.

Notice the use of “therefore” in the last paragraph. How does this word help the reader transition from the previous paragraph to this one? Learn more about transition words at <writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/transitions-esl>.