

# 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.

## Afraid to Speak Up

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 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.<sup>1</sup>

## Two Police Shootings

Now and then, you hear about a Latino getting shot. For example, there is the case of Oscar Romero in Los Angeles. A police officer shot him because “he moved his arms in a *threatening manner*,” according to the Los Angeles Times.<sup>2</sup> Another Latino, Antonio Zambrano Montes, was shot by police because “he was *allegedly* throwing rocks at passing cars.”<sup>3</sup> We as a community should not let the police treat us this way.

## We Should Unite

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



Antonio Zambrano Montes was killed by police for allegedly throwing rocks. Photo: Twitter.

stay under the radar” adapted by Newsela, 8-12-15; 3. <[www.cnn.com/2015/09/11/opinions/reyes-antonio-zambrano-montes](http://www.cnn.com/2015/09/11/opinions/reyes-antonio-zambrano-montes)>.

## AFTER YOU READ:

1. Look closely at how the author uses quotes and sources. What are some similarities and differences in the way she uses the three sources.
2. Discuss how the use of sources affects the strength and credibility of her essay.
3. Notice the use of “for example” and “another” in the second paragraph. How do these words help the reader make sense of the text? Notice the use of “therefore” in the third paragraph. How does this word help the reader transition from the previous paragraph to this one?
4. See another article that addresses discrimination against Latinos in Issue #57, p. 6, “A Better Life Despite Discrimination.”

Nancy Lozano is a HiSET student at North Kansas City Schools in Kansas City, MO. She has two wonderful children and looks forward to passing her test. This essay was originally published in *Issue #42*, “Talking about Race,” p. 49.

