

Personal Statement—Victor Arguelles

Starting a new life in a totally unknown country is a very difficult situation. Language is one big barrier that many immigrants face when they came to this country. I know a little boy that came to this county a long time ago. I can still see that little boy trying to make friends during recess, unfortunately the barrier of language was stopping him to do so. When he less expected he was surrounded by kids just like him, immigrants. Finally that boy had encounter friends to speak in his native language, Spanish, for years to come.

That boy finished middle school successfully. Then the boy began high school, he made even more friends, besides the friends he still had from his previous school. Even though his academic counselor was constantly encouraging him to make the transaction from the basic ESL (English as a Second Language), this boy felt comfortable being around his friends and every time he was given a class taught in English he would immediately go to his academic counselor to drop back to ESL.

Two years later this boy started to become interested in becoming the first child in his family to finish high school and to attend a four year university. Now, his greatest challenge was to meet the requirement in order to be admitted to a university. One day he decided to challenge himself, he goes to talk to the school counselor and asked her to enroll him in English classes. Unfortunately or fortunately there was no more room available, the counselor offered this young male college prep classes. At first he say no, because he knew his English, in all aspects, was not good enough, but at the end he decided to take the challenge. Among all of his classes he took a foreign language, as a

high school requirement. He finds out he did not know Spanish grammar either, that there was more than just a spoken language. That's when his interest for his own language began.

In my Spanish classes in high school I found that language is not just a language, it's a way of life that represents a culture that most of the times is left behind when we, (Hispanics), move to a different country in search of a better life. I memorized a poem from Calderón de la Barca, Los sueños, sueños son, Dream are dreams. This poem opened up my vision towards Hispanic and Latin American literature. Also talking to my friends and noticing that our conversations were, most of the time in Spanglish, not because we were adopting a new language, but because we had such a shortage of vocabulary in both languages, English and our Spanish. From that moment I decided, I wanted to study Spanish to save it from been lost.

My name is Victor Arguelles. I went to CSU Fresno for three years. Several events happened in my life that keep me away from school for several years. Being accepted to CSU Monterey was a great blessed I academically received. Now I want to work towards my Spanish B.A. One I receive it, I want to follow CSU Monterey Bay mission, to contribute my community productivity, responsibly and ethically to California and the global community. I will become a high school teacher, teach for a few years then I will go to grad school and eventually received my PhD. I want to stay in the bay area and pay with my service and knowledge to my community with I have learn in life.