



Honorable Mention Submission – Essay / Creative Nonfiction
San Diego Community College District
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Subject: How have recent national events impacted you, your community, or the nation?

It is almost impossible to ignore the elephant in the room: the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, also known as ICE, and its treatment of reliable working-class immigrants as the prominent national event occurring currently. It even feels like a responsibility, a call to action for us people with Latin American descent to respond to these injustices of the government that is currently oppressing us. Regardless of our citizenship or residency status, or of those close to us, we are not different from those Latin American brothers that are being deported unannouncedly, we are directly linked with them, socially, biologically, emotionally, and humanly, we ought to respond and retaliate against the injustices that they are currently experiencing. How? There are powerful legislatures and approaches that politicians need to implement in order to halt this change, it is discouraging to see that we have to wait for senate and political action to occur for our people to be protected, but is there another alternative? Something we can do in the meantime? How are we supposed to help our Latin American brothers against this treatment? Protesting, going out to the streets with our colleagues, friends, and close family and protest:



Figure 1.1: Anti-ICE protests in Downtown and North San Diego areas

The goal of this essay is not to incentivize violence, or to promote hostile behavior against agents of the government, politicians, or legislatives. The goal is to spread the idea that protest is the most efficient method to retaliate, and preeminently, to have political participation



in the country that shelters you for people without a direct involvement in the legislative branch. Everyone has the right and the responsibility to politically participate in one's country, especially when that participation involves the retaliation against injustices of your own people.

Just as the civil rights movement in the 50's and 60's, the labor movements in the 70s, Cesar Chavez with the Grape Strike, and even modern civil social movements such as Black Lives Matter, we have to stand up and participate politically by protesting in the streets. Strikes, street blocks, engaging in discussions with your peers and colleagues, and other non-violent methods are what make real change while the legislative branch halts this oppression, not posts in social media, nor insulting politicians, nor damaging public property is going to make a change, but protesting socially is what really makes a change. This is a call to action to organize collectively and interact with everyone you know who has a Latin American linkage, which you probably know someone if you live in California. California is the state with most Latin Americans in the entire country. If we organize within the state of California, other states will follow along, and the legislature will have no other option than to deny the continuation of the oppressing treatment of immigrants.