

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute

“The Immigrant Experience in California through Literature & Theatre”

San José State University - Summer 2022

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Topic/Theme	ELA = Experience, Learn, Acto! What are the Core Principles of Ethnic Studies (Literature)?
Institute Text Inspiration	Luis Valdez’ <i>Zoot Suit</i> and <i>Theater of the Sphere</i>
Student Grade Level	10th grade
Lesson Plan Length	2-3 weeks
Unit Overview	<p>10th grade students are in an Ethnic Studies Literature class. It is the beginning of the year and many are unsure what Ethnic Studies Literature means - how it is different (and similar!) to a “regular” English class. By incorporating Luis Valdez’ philosophy of “starting with the body”, I want students to physicalize their understanding in order to <i>feel</i> what it means to be Ethnic Studies literate. After breaking down the definition of the 7 Core Principles of Ethnic Studies (through tableaux to depict the meaning of each one), they will analyze how Luis Valdez’ life and works exemplify the Core Principles. They will read/watch “Los Vendidos” as a mentor text to create their own Acto on a topic of social injustice that they want to say something about. Following their performances, they will reflect on several key concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) How did their Acto incorporate Valdez’ philosophy and techniques? B) How did they themselves exemplify the 7 Core Principles of ES through this unit of study and performance? C) What is their overall understanding of the meaning and purpose of Ethnic Studies Literature and how can they be agents of change through literacy?
Essential Questions & Skills	What is Ethnic Studies Literature? What are the Core Principles behind Ethnic Studies? How can we be agents of change through literacy?
Key Student Learning Objectives	Students will understand (through analysis and performance) what Ethnic Studies Literature is and its purpose.
Sequence of Key Learning Activities	See Unit below
Texts and Materials Used	7 Core Principles of Ethnic Studies (handout) Luis Valdez’ “Notes on Chicano Theater” and “In LaK’ech” (article,

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	chant) Dr Huerta’s Intro to Valdez and Chicano Theater (audio speech) Valdez’ “Los Vendidos” (film or script) Ethnic Studies Praxis for Story Plot (handout)
Assessments	Performance of Group Actos; Written Reflection

Unit Agenda:

Step 1	What do the following words mean? Cultivate, celebrate, center, critique, challenge, connect, conceptualize Gallery Walk of EXTENDED ES Core Principles. In groups, students summarize each one and then each group creates a tableaux to depict the concept behind each core principle.
Step 2	Read Valdez’ life and philosophy In Lak'ech/ “Notes on Chicano Theater” and Dr Huerta intro to Valdez Analyze how Valdez exemplifies each Core Principle of Ethnic Studies through his life and works.
Step 3	“Los Vendidos” - Watch or read the play and begin introducing Ethnic Studies Praxis to discuss oppressive action, trauma/tension, taking action, and revolution within the story.
Step 4	Using “Los Vendidos” as a mentor text, students create their own Actos in groups. Each group chooses a social injustice that they want to say something about.
Step 5	Class creates a list of techniques and elements of an Acto as the ‘rubric’ for their group Actos.
Step 6	Performances
Step 7	Reflection (Written reflection that addresses their understanding of Ethnic Studies and its core principles and how they see themselves as agents of change through ES literacy.)

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Name | Grade Level