

## I HAVE A STORY TO TELL: INFORMATION LITERACY AND TESTIMONIO WRITING

### INTRODUCTION

The worksheet, activity, slides, and library instruction session outline for this assignment are a methodology for integrating information literacy and library research into testimonio writing in a first-year undergraduate Introduction to Higher Education (IHE) course in the College of Education at California State University, Los Angeles. IHE courses introduce students to skills for academic success, including information literacy. For the course assignment, students write a testimonio about their lived experience in education and cite scholarly articles relevant to the topics or themes of the testimonio. To model the process for writing their own testimonio, in a library instruction session, students read an excerpt from a published testimonio, identify themes or keywords from the text, and use those terms to search for scholarly articles in a library database.

### TESTIMONIO ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTION FOR STUDENTS

Testimonio is a genre of literature that retells historical events using literary elements such as dialogue, poetry and metaphors from an eyewitness perspective. Testimonios are different than traditional writing styles where authors simply retell stories. This style of writing allows the author to critically retell and interrogate their lived experiences. Testimonios re-humanize, nurture, and blend traditionally distinct academic disciplines such as history and literature, to help relay historical experiences.

This semester you will explore some aspects of your story or experiences in education and present them in the form of a testimonio. You will look at your personal engagement with your community, culture, family, education, and other spaces you have inhabited. Pick an event from your educational experiences (primary, middle, or high school), either positive or negative, dramatize it, and then explore it with the purpose of coming to some kind of statement, or insight, about how education should be, according to you. You must reference from 2 class presentations, 2 readings, 2 research articles, and the film *Precious Knowledge*. Be sure to cite accordingly using APA 7<sup>th</sup> edition format.

### TESTIMONIO ASSIGNMENT PURPOSE FOR STUDENTS

The purpose of this paper is to open up for the class the rich descriptions of various settings in which learning occurs, the various ways people learn from experience, and the various social purposes writing can serve. It is also to explore writing as one of our most powerful human practices. It is important to learn who we have been so that we can better choose who we will become. You will use mainly descriptive detail, vivid scenes, and reflection to support some central issue or question.

### CREATORS

- Professors Miguel Zavala, PhD and Jose Paolo Magcalas, PhD, California State University, Los Angeles, College of Education (library instruction session, assignment)
- Kimberly Y. Franklin, PhD, Education Librarian, California State University, Los Angeles, University Library (library instruction session, worksheet, slides, activity, library instruction session outline)