

Interviewee Background: XXXXX	XXXXX was born in China. She met her husband when their parents became friends. Then they got engaged, she is now living in New Mexico as an immigrant for 15 years. I would like to interview her because it would be really interesting to hear about her story and how it was to be an immigrant.
Project Background	I was asked to interview an elder that I know about what it means to be American. Before this interview I read three graphic novels. They all had the theme of identity and belonging. I analyzed all three of the books for a lot of information. There are still things that I want to learn so I will ask you. I hope to learn new things about being American while being an immigrant. During this I will ask you 10 or so questions about what it means to be American.
Questions	
Tell me about yourself.	I moved to the US because I got married. I lived in Argentina for almost one year and a half before I got married. I have two kinds of living experiences from two countries. I like to travel. I have visited half of the places in China by myself. I travel with my family in the US. I like to listen to music. English isn't my native language.
How is living in America different from China?	Less people in America. There is little pollution here in NM. It is easy to get everywhere in my car because we don't live in a big city. Life is more simple. People in America understand you better instead of assumptions. I like food in China more than America. The high-speed train is very convenient in China to get everywhere. In China, the cost is obviously less than in America.
How did you feel when you came to America? Did you feel that you've already become American or would you consider yourself still from China? Why?	At that time, I didn't speak English very well. I didn't really understand what the people were saying. Language was a big challenge for me. I felt that I was Chinese and I still feel that. I didn't get any education in the US so

	the culture and background of the country was still different and confusing. I actually had a hard time adjusting to life here.
Is your childhood harder or easier than what the kids in China have now? Why?	My childhood was harder than what the kids have now. We lived in a small condo with my grandparents. I needed to take the bus to my other home by myself when I was in second grade. Also, during elementary school, I usually had to cook and eat by myself. No one took care of me. Even with all of this I still studied hard and had fun. But, the education before was much easier than what the kids have now, Because the kids right now, the teacher kind of doesn't teach. They just assume that the kids are going to a tutor and learning stuff more advanced than the class they're in.
Can you compare and contrast the traditions and values from China to America?	The things that are the same is that I think the families think about the education for their things. I think that's the most common thing throughout China and America. The difference is that in Chinese education, they focus on test scores. They probably don't think about extra curricular activities like sports and music. Whereas in America, Americans focus on having fun, if you believe it, just do it. Try your best. Encourages their kids to think about their dreams.
When you first came to America was it hard to communicate with people? Did they judge you for being an outsider?	Yes, it was hard for me to communicate because I didn't understand English. I don't feel that the people judged me. They were all very nice.
What experiences added that "American" factor to your identity? Why do you think that these are important to tell?	It was in 2019, I traveled with my daughter to the UK. So, when we needed to pass the customs. I could answer the questions easily and have good conversations easily. Another experience was when I was visiting China. I was in a subway station, I helped the foreigners get to the correct subway line. Since I lived in the US for a couple years now and was practicing English, it was improving to make me feel my identity. I think these are important because I started learning English in 5th grade. But this was mostly for tests. When we were outside of our country, we had to use English, but we couldn't even use it.

	The things we learned didn't help us understand what the other people were saying. So I think since I moved to the US I had a very good environment to practice my English skills. I could actually feel the language improving year by year.
In your childhood, what were some experiences living with a big family that sets you apart from other people?	So, my mom has a big family. She has 8 siblings. At that time the Chinese government controlled the population. One couple would only have one child. That is the law we needed to follow. I had eight cousins, all different ages and from different places. That's why I have needed to deal with different people since I was very young. I have a very good relationship with my cousin so when they had any problems my aunt or my uncle would just call me and ask me to help their kid.
When you first got to America did the people here want to make you stay, or go back to China? Why?	When I got to America, the people I met were my husband's friends. They were very welcoming and friendly towards me. They invited me to their Thanksgiving party and didn't mind that I didn't speak English very well. They always gave me a big hug.
Share some experiences that are similar from America to China? Did these experiences remind you of your home?	When I first got to the US I think that Christmas reminded me of Chinese New Year. All the family members would have dinner together. The gifts were similar to the Chinese New Year red envelopes. We give out all the gifts as a symbol of good luck for all the kids.