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5/5/26

Period: 3

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| Interviewee Background:                                                        | XXXXXX is my grandmother on my mom's side. She was born on XXXXXX, 1955, being 70 years old. XXXX is Native American. She speaks Diné and English. Her father was a Navajo code talker while her mom was a stay at home mom. She grew up with 8 siblings in New Mexico.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Project description                                                            | The reason why I came to interview you is because me and my class have been reading 3 graphic novels involving different identities and cultures. We have to interview an elder to get their perspective of what it means to be American. I am going to take your answers into a poem.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Tell me about yourself (Age, Family, hobbies, etc.)                            | I'm XXXXX, 70 years old, I had worked as a Security Guard, switched to board operator, road construction as flag pilot, cashier, worked as a cook, teacher aide, bus driver, teacher, safe ride driver, drove a shuttle bus, assisted living aide, now a house wife. I have 9 siblings currently. 6 sisters and 2 brothers. All together we had 13 siblings. I love to be busy at all times. I try to do crocheting, puzzles, crossword puzzles and other stuff while being around my grandkids. I love cooking when I can.                               |
| What was your childhood like? Did you like living in a house full of siblings? | During my childhood I went to school from home for kindergarten to 6th. Then went on a placement program for 4 years away from home. There were only 5 of us kids home. We all had chores to do each day and when finished, we went to play outside. We were taught to love each other and respect each other. I don't remember getting into fights with my siblings. So to this day we all stay in touch. So when I came back to graduate from Cuba Highschool, there were only three of us kids at home. The older siblings moved out, getting married. |
| Where were you born and raised?                                                | I was born in a place called Rehoboth in Gallup, New Mexico. I was raised in Pueblo Pintado and would sometimes go to my house in Torreon.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

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| What are some key things that are part of your culture? Do you think that is similar to American culture?  | The sunrise is what we use in our cultures. Also the four directions too. There are things used in the culture that is around us. We use prayers, the mountains with the directions, and some plants are also used in our culture too. Which we use in our daily lives. Yes, I do think it is similar in some ways.                             |
| Who was the one person you felt like you were close with? Why were you guys close?                         | My mother was who I was close with. She was loving, caring, respectful, she taught me personal hygiene, how to keep the house clean, learn how to cook, to have respect for siblings, the community, and she would welcome anyone to the family. That is why grandpa had a lot of kids.                                                         |
| Was English your first language? If not, was it hard learning English since it wasn't your first language? | Yes, English was my only language when we were growing up, we were living in a government complex so the majority of the children were Anglo Americans and African American, Pueblos and which we played within the complex. We were living where the community school and most of those kids was Navajo for their first language               |
| How did it feel knowing that your dad fought in World War II?                                              | It was an honor and I'm very proud of what he did. He won many awards for using the Navajo language. Have all respect for all veterans.                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Do you consider yourself American? If so, what actions do you do that you think considers being American?  | Yes, I do consider myself American because I live in America, and because I am Native American which they first found America.                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Has your dad ever told you anything about World War II? If so, what did he say to you about it?            | To tell you the truth he would talk about it and I never listened. He would talk with boys mostly. All I remember was he said he lied about his age so he could get into the military. I have a book that he talks about war. That book has several Navajo Code Talkers telling their experiences with the war.                                 |
| Growing up in America, did you feel like you belonged? If not, why?                                        | Well me and my family never had any problems or discriminated against the community. The only time was when I started in high school us Native Americans were being mistreated by other students, probably because we were better at sports, etc. But we didn't pay attention to them because we knew our parents would say something about it. |

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