



VILLARREAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERPRISES

ENDEAVORS IN PROGRESS

Discussion Questions: Felipe Agredano: Scholarship, Culture, and Educational Leadership Across Borders

1. **The article argues that education is connected to history, culture, and identity.**

Why do you think schools and education are influenced by culture and history? Can education ever truly be “neutral”?

2. **Felipe Agredano emphasizes dialogue across communities and borders.**

How are the experiences of Latino communities in the United States connected to communities in Mexico and Latin America? Why is it important to study these connections?

3. **Agredano’s work focuses partly on the Catholic Church and Latino communities.**

What role has religion historically played in Chicana/Latino communities? In what ways has religion been a source of support, conflict, activism, or identity?

4. **The article discusses “public scholarship.”**

What responsibilities do scholars and educators have to the communities they come from? Should academics be involved in public discussions and social issues? Why or why not?



5. **Agredano is organizing an Educational Research Conference in Mexico focused on educational equity and culturally responsive teaching.**

What does “educational equity” mean to you? Do all students in the United States receive equal educational opportunities? Explain your answer with examples.

6. **The article mentions culturally responsive pedagogy and bilingual education.**

Why is it important for schools to recognize students’ languages, cultures, and histories in the classroom? How can this impact student success and identity?

7. **The article describes scholarship as a tool for strengthening communities.**

How can education empower communities that have historically experienced discrimination or marginalization?

8. **Agredano’s work encourages critical reflection about society and culture.**

Why is critical thinking important in Ethnic Studies courses? How can learning history from multiple perspectives change the way students understand society today?

9. **The article highlights the growing importance of Latino scholars in academic spaces.**

Why does representation matter in education, media, and leadership positions? How can seeing Latino scholars and educators influence younger generations?

10. **The article presents education as a bridge between cultures and communities.**

What are some ways students themselves can help create dialogue and understanding across cultural or social differences in their schools or communities?

Extension / Reflective Writing Prompt

Felipe Agredano’s work suggests that education should go beyond textbooks and help communities better understand culture, identity, and social responsibility.

Write a reflection explaining whether you agree or disagree with this idea. Include examples from your own educational experiences, community, or Ethnic Studies coursework.

Optional Critical Thinking Question

11. **Some people argue that Ethnic Studies courses are too political, while others believe they are necessary for understanding history and society.**

Based on the article and your own experiences, what role should Ethnic Studies play in schools? Support your answer with evidence and examples.

Photo Credit: Watts Coffee House. Pic @ Dan Tuffs.

Felipe Agredano.

2/2/16