

## SEEK TO BELONG-PROCESS MEMO

We were given an assignment in ENC1101 to write a short story. Never have I ever received such a general prompt in all my years taking English courses. Seeing that I could write about whatever my heart desired instantly excited me. Little did I know, however, that choosing a topic would be such a hard decision.

I wanted to write about someone aspiring to move to Mars, because I thought it would be an interesting story. I mean, who doesn't want to read about someone's life flourishing in a different planet? I started my writing process, only to quickly realize that I was going in the complete wrong direction. When would I ever get another chance to write about virtually anything that I wanted? The answer to that question was "probably never." That's when I realized that I should write about something that means a lot to me, and something that needs to be addressed on the national level. That is why I choose to write a story around a fictional character by the name of Juan.

Since I didn't want to aim the story at a specific audience, I attempted to make it sound like a normal account of a teenager's life. This way, I believe, I allowed for more people to enjoy this story. The most difficult part of writing this was keeping the whole meaning of the paper subtle. I didn't want to just blurt out the word "racist", or "discrimination", because it would not appeal to younger, innocent readers. I mentioned things like what Juan ate and what the students who made fun at him threw at him, to show the differences in their culture rather than just flat out mentioning them. Also, I very carefully chose the names of his friends (Caridad, DeShawn) to also illustrate these differences. The state that Juan lives in was also carefully chosen to help the audience connect the whole story with Arizona's current immigration laws. This story was written in first-person because it allowed for the audience to feel a connection with Juan as a person, and not just as a fictional character.