

[Student 1]: This is the podcast for Andrew, Shena and Tim's group. We will be interviewing Veronica on her experience in immigrating to the United States as an illegal immigrant.

[Student 2]: Where are you from in Mexico?

[Veronica translated by Shena]: I am from Mexico, the state of Guadalajara. It's very difficult from here, it's a slower pace, the people don't work as hard as they do over here. You don't live as comfortable as you do here, but enjoy the stuff that you do have like your family, your kids, your house. You have more time to do things over there than you do here.

[Student 1]: What really made you decide to leave Mexico?

[Veronica translated by Shena]: In the beginning I decided to come because a friend of mine also wanted to come. But our dreams were later to save money and return to Mexico and buy a home and have our own businesses.

[Student 2]: Did you have a job in Mexico?

[Veronica translated by Shena]: Yes, I had a job over there. I worked at a creamery, it's sort of a supermarket with specialized in small businesses and the colonies and the housewives who would buy their supplies for the week.

[Student 1]: What did you think about the US when you were still in Mexico?

[Veronica translated by Shena]: You think very differently, the people here speak very differently. Everything and everyone in here is caught up with material things. You can buy a lot of things. It matters about how you look. It's important to know things or places that aren't over there but these people don't explain to you problems and difficulties you are faced with. No one tells you that you need a license to drive a car or a social security card to work or a language for other people to understand you. So since everyone is telling you it's easy, it's in reality very hard.

[Student 2]: You said that the pace of life is slower. What were the conditions like, and how's that different from America?

[Veronica translated by Shena]: Where I live there are paved roads, the houses are just like here. There aren't much front yards and you have a fence and the house starts right away.

[Student 1]: Can you share your journey or coming to America?

[Veronica translated by Shena]: I had to go from my house to the airport and I took a flight from there to Tijuana. I made it to Tijuana and the person that was supposed

to bring me couldn't so I had to go to San Luis. I had to take a bus from Tijuana to there and I took about 4 to 5 hours to get there. We had a lot of stops. I made it to San Luis. There was a small convenience store sort of like Seven Eleven and that's where you have to call the person who was going to take you. In ten minutes a gentleman arrived to pick me up and I got on the truck that took me to a home that takes care of you for a few hours. At around 12 midnight, they took me to another home with the people who were going to take me left. From there I waited until 4 o'clock in the morning. We tried the first time, but we couldn't so we had to go back and wait. Then at 10 o'clock in the morning a gentleman arrived and said that we had to be showered, dressed and ready to go because we are going to try again when the sunset. At around 7 o'clock, we tried again and made it, but I got stuck in the barbed wired fence. I still have the scatter on my ... of that day.

[Student 2]: Was it hard to leave your family and come to America alone?

[Veronica translated by Shena]: Yes, it was very difficult, but as time passes it gets a little easier. After a while you kind of get used to it. You meet new people, you start to building a life, you start your own new life, but in the beginning it is hard especially since I don't have anyone here, but then you start living your own life.

[Student 1]: What did you do when you first got here? Where you able to find work?

[Veronica translated by Shena]: I arrived on March 17<sup>th</sup> and I didn't start work until May 20<sup>th</sup> at a temp job. I was only there for about three months but it took me about two months to find the job.

[Student 1]: What kind of work was it?

[Veronica translated by Shena]: It was in a cherry field but I didn't pick it from the field, I worked in the warehouse where we separated the good ones from the bad ones.

[Student 2]: What some of the things you like about America and some of the things that you don't?

[Veronica translated by Shena]: I like it here because economically you can have a better life. You have a lot of things. In Mexico thou, if you see someone with twine cloth or scrapped up shoes you think that maybe they're poor and if you see a woman working, then you start to think that maybe it's because her husband cannot support her. But over here, if someone works or drives a car and manages our money then that's seen as normal.

[Student 1]: Would you ever go back to Mexico?

[Veronica translated by Shena]: yes and no I would return. Yes because I would love to see my family but no because I have started a new life here. I have plans. I've noticed I see a lot of things here that are very similar that in Mexico.

[Student 1]: Over all, are you glad that you came to the US?

[Veronica translated by Shena]: Now I am because like everyone else you get used to it. It's a different change, a drastic one. But over all, I am glad I'm here.

[Student 1]: We would like to thank Veronica for allowing us interview her.