

# Celebrating My Cultural Roots



*Economy,  
Work &  
Lifestyle  
Journal*



## COMMUNICATIONS TODAY



*A JOURNEY OF SELF AWARENESS & CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING*

*Literacy in the Practice of Conversation*

*My African-American mother gave birth to Italian, Jewish and Puerto Rican children. My nuclear siblings and I gave birth to Portuguese, Cape Verdean, Puerto Rican & Dominican children who gave birth to Asian children. My first cousins are Pequot, Wampanoag & Cape Verdean. We are a close and tightly knit family that shares fantastic holiday meals and who are a part of each other's ongoing multi-cultural experiences. When I talk about being Black in America, I am often caught in a dilemma as to how I keep my true family story in the American conversation. My dilemma always confronts me when I fill out forms on culture and ethnicity. I often wonder if other individuals from multi-ethnic families confront the same issues, especially when filling out ethnic and cultural description forms across institutions. I usually feel like I am caught in a systemic oversight by omission. America is the great melting pot right? So now that we can self-identify by gender, shouldn't we be able to self-identify ethnically? I wonder how many people feel as though they are not only being stereotyped, but being erased by ethnic or cultural exclusion from public understanding and societal clarification. This is not just a question for the poor or the underserved, so called politically correct conversations between middle and upper managers often include biases and stereotypes that create elitist cultural misunderstandings. My professional experiences in public relations not only with WFXT-Fox 25 TV, but also as an intern with WHDH channel 7, and as a contractor with the now defunct WLVI TV 56, have shown me that TV program managers select television story programming based on their own images and preconceived notions - rather than really researching the cultures of their actual viewership. Too often that means if we don't look like the programmer our stories get left out of the programming.*

*In order to close some of the gaps in ethnic exclusion, I have made it my mission to continue teaching youth how to write themselves into history by writing multi-cultural stories for journals, books and other kinds of programming. In this case, I have worked with multi-ethnic fifth grade students at the Irwin Jacobs Elementary School in New Bedford, Massachusetts. These young folks created stories about their lives in America, including their dreams of who they are becoming as they grow. These young people worked together and supported each other by answering a series of my questions designed to foster pride of culture and self-esteem. At the completion of their efforts in this journal, they found themselves empowered as writers and producers of stories, reflecting their local to global communities.*

*Please, share this work with a friend or family member who needs help finding their way.*

***This issue is dedicated to Mrs. Joan K. Jacobs  
carrying forward her kindness and generosity.***

**Sponsored by**



# **E**WORKSTYLE JOURNAL

## *Power of Voice Edition*

Editor-in-Chief, Paula Robinson Deare      Editor at Large, V. Paul Deare

### Editorial Team

Steven L. Robinson, Curtiss E. Robinson, Chaun A. Robinson

Individual Stories by the Irwin Jacobs 5th Grade Students

### Photography

V. Paul Deare & the Irwin Jacobs 5th Grade Students

Contributing Photography: Irwin Jacobs Teachers & Administration,  
Steven L. Robinson, Curtiss E. Robinson, Chaun A. Robinson & Paula's Archives

For digital copies of this journal, click publications at  
[www.eworkstyle.org](http://www.eworkstyle.org)

ISBN: 978-0-9799585-1-2 (pb)

Library of Congress Catalogue Card Number

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Published by Eworkstyle Institute, Copyright © Winter 2024

Printed in the United States of America

**EDITORIAL OFFICES at CLARKS POINT**

P.O. Box, 40295, New Bedford, MA 02744

Eworkstyle Institute Publications [www.eworkstyle.org](http://www.eworkstyle.org)

## Celebrating My Cultural Roots

*Verbal, Print & Media Coaching for Literacy Practice  
in Preparation for the Print, Broadcast & Web Frontier*



### PAGE CONTENTS

- 5 About This Work
- 6 30 Million Words
- 7 Pride of Culture
- 8 Timothy McLaughlin, Principal
- 9 Ms. Patricia Barlow & Mr.s Daniel Viegas
- 10 Ms. Karen L. Frenette, 5th Grade ESL Instructor
- 11 Ms. Erin Baker, 5th Grade Teacher
- 13 A. Souza Pacheco, Brazil
- 15 J. Rodrigues, Cape Verde
- 17 M. Gil Colon, Dominican Republic
- 19 K. Menjivar Mijango, El Salvador
- 20 O. Constanza Campos, El Salvador
- 21 S. Abarca Quinonez, El Salvador
- 23 A. Chingo Coj, Guatemala
- 24 B. Cac Suar, Guatemala
- 26 B. Bojorquez Padilla, Honduras
- 27 E. Mejia Espinoza, Honduras
- 28 Z. Cartagena Lemus, Honduras
- 30 J. Samuel Williams, Jamaica
- 32 A. Cisneros Ojeda, Mexico
- 33 F. Ciprian, Mexico
- 34 M. Ojeda Rivas, Mexico
- 36 D. Burgos Velez, Purto Rico
- 37 M. Raspaldo Domingues, Puerto Rico
- 38 Z. Rodriques Alvarado, Puerto Rico
- 40 A. Medeiros, United States
- 41 I. Ramos, United States
- 42 H. Jones, United States
- 43 J. Carter, Unites States



# About This Work

FROM PLACE BASED TO WEB BASED PRACTICES  
MODELS & METHODS FOR THE POWER OF VOICE

*This journal began with the idea that young people should learn to write their own stories so they can define themselves, rather than be defined by others. I approached the Mass Cultural Council and the Irwin Jacobs Elementary School about the project and they loved it. I worked with two fifth grade teachers at the Irwin Jacobs. They made the project a bit more practical by connecting my curriculum to their class's ongoing writing lessons. The teachers helped me to engage twenty-two, multi-lingual students, from ten countries, in cultural discussions by interpreting questions and allowing the student's answers to frame stories of themselves and their families. The outcome of our shared experiences you hold in your hands.*

*Celebrating My Cultural Roots is a journey of the cultural exploration necessary for both building self-awareness and bridging race relations. Celebrating My Cultural Roots is an important ethnic and cultural project based on my early research as an Urban Studies Fellow at MIT. From 1984 – 1994, as part of my work in broadcast media, I studied a variety of scientific reports that showed persistently unpleasant media stories negatively shape the lives of youths. These reports demonstrated by eighteen the average youth watched some 22,000 accumulated hours of television - with a rate of 80% violence compared to 11,000 hours of classroom time. Violent movies were earning billions by 1990, which continues each year. The question was and is, "What socialization precedent is being set?" Back in 1990, 148 homicides occurred in Boston, MA, USA.*

*According to Nancy Wang Yuen at Biola University in 2015, the average U.S. resident consumed traditional and digital media for about 15.5 hours each day. In the same year, eight- to twelve-year-old children consumed an average of six hours of media a day and teens consumed nine hours. She wrote, "This mind-boggling amount of media consumption shapes how U.S. residents see the world, and racial imagery in the media has cumulative effects on society. Often biased media portrayals of racial groups cannot be dismissed as mere enter-*



Paula Robinson Deare, Publisher

*tainment, especially not if their impact on youth are taken seriously." Yuen continued, "Researchers have found that prolonged television exposure predicts a decrease in self-esteem for all girls and for black boys, but an increase in self-esteem for white boys. These differences correlate with the racial and gender practices in Hollywood, which predominantly casts white men as heroes, while erasing or subordinating other groups as villains, sidekicks, and sexual objects. Studies also show how media images of Native American mascots lower the self-esteem and affect the moods of Native American adolescents and young adults (who suffer from high suicide rates)." By 2018, with box office and home entertainment revenue included, the global film industry was worth \$136 billion. Research has shown, youths who commit homicide are drawn to that extreme as the result of an argument, and at the point of furious hostility, they have no practice, nor skills in how to diffuse said argument. Today, movies that glamorize violence earn well over \$40 billion each year.*

*In the context of strengthening self-identity for multicultural youth, Celebrating My Cultural Roots provides an array of stories that inform and focus dialogue on positive storytelling. The stories in Celebrating My Cultural Roots focus on hope, freedom and cultural acceptance regardless of race, color, gender, age or creed. Celebrating My Cultural Roots is information rich and fun learning for all ages. This project was designed to engage youth and their families to begin a dialogue of daily cultural discussions by providing inspiration, role modeling and reflection from their families' journeys to the United States.*

While the twenty-two stories here begin to share local to global cultures, ethnicities, diversity, family, tolerance and inclusion - it is important to know that each of our lived experiences can add up to a stored intellectual and emotional library of call and response behaviors to be shared and related to. There is a project measuring the phenomenon of family discussions and their impact on personal development, entitled by its researchers as the "The 30 Million Word Gap." Also known as "The Word Gap," that research project has shown children from low-income families will have experienced less than 30 million words - compared to upper-income children by the time they start third grade. The research shows what is important about bridging the word gap is building new vocabulary skills which are also associated with reading, writing and comprehension.

Further, The Word Gap project shows, in their first four years of life, the average child in a low-income family will have accumulated five times more disallows than allows with as many as eleven discouragements compared to five encouragements per hour. That is three times more negatives than upper-income children. Regardless of social status, conversations beyond cellphones, television and movies should provide a comfort and development zone for young people. This can happen if we engage in emotional and intellectual nourishment with love, trust, self-awareness, healing and manners, as well as growth and understanding through concerted dialogue. In order to close the word gap, we can simply spend a percentage of each day engaged in earnest and meaningful discussion. The most convenient time for families to have dedicated conversation is mealtime. That doesn't mean mealtimes should be used for discipline, penalties or distractions like technology or TV. This time should be one of focused engagement in bonding and discussion toward positive and expressive literacy growth.

The key to literacy is not only the practice of frequent and regular discussions, reading and

writing, but developing comfort with these habits. Literacy involves a progression of skills from comprehension of spoken words and decoding variable meanings to awareness of speech, sounds, accents and spelling. Literacy comes from experiencing the beginning, middle and end of insightful, critical discussions. Literacy is accomplished by moments when an individual struggles with insights, learned material, informed decisions, inference and coherence. Literacy comes when a person's critical analysis toward understanding something accomplishes the focus and synthesis to have a 'eureka' moment, based on a creative thought of their own.

In this way, literacy makes all of us unique in our ability to identify, understand and interpret varying environments. The positive development of children and youth varies greatly but is based on the quality and time taken with daily conversation. Just because wealthier parents can hire help so they can make more time to talk to their children, doesn't mean that working class families can't be creative and directive about family discussions.

Just know that while positive conversations get positive results, negative conversations get negative results and the development of the young is affected by their interpersonal relationships with family members and the world at large. For instance, the overwhelming negative things a person hears and experiences from those trusted and close can and does inhibit the development of individuals well before and after the pursuit of school, and well into college, work and retirement life.

Most human beings typically accumulate experiences during our average 5,000 waking hours in each year. A child's experience comes by watching and identically mimicking their parents' language literacy, communication habits, and behaviors, followed by that of others. That means discussions with plenty of encouragements combined with using kind words in conversation and reading a few pages each day, adds up on a weekly, monthly and yearly basis - and can make the difference, not just with good grades in school, but with success in life.

# Pride of Culture

FROM PLACE BASED TO WEB BASED PRACTICES  
MODELS & METHODS FOR THE POWER OF VOICE

Too often in today's news we are confronted with examples of what is not working in our neighborhoods and society in a general forced shaming from those touting the power of media. At Eworkstyle Institute, to counter constant negative storytelling, we focus on showcasing cultural equity through illustrative models fostering self-development and community-building. Our primary purpose is to teach new ways to combat impacts of negative media communications on literacy and self-esteem. A recent news report showed our minds are shutting down because the digital age is affecting our ability to focus. We believe our minds are tuning out the constantly negative content we are seeing – no matter what medium we look at. Further, when we see culturally negative stories as likenesses of our heritage – we shut down, in self-protection mode. However, that also means we are limiting our capacity to learn, engage and develop ourselves and our children. Our answer is in this example, positive news that we can relate to, engage with and support.

The human need for inspiring and quality engagement is growing quickly. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) reports 22.2% of all students statewide were chronically absent during the 2022-2023 school year. The South Coast's New Bedford and Fall River Public Schools were near the top of the list. The report also highlighted Hispanic or Latino students, ESL students and low-income students as the most likely groups to be chronically absent averaging 39% in 2022-23.

Over the course of the past few years, post-pandemic stories began to appear about grass-roots problem-solving models initiated by moms, working at home as well as youth based coalitions. They were addressing home-schooling challenges, peer-to-peer public health safety, and intergenerational care advocacy as well as outreach for assisting neighborhood elders. Additionally, national retailers and Mom & Pop businesses began to provide consumer-oriented product/service access and delivery options. These became models of 'Survival 101' as America began to open doors for exploration of new



V. Paul Deare, Publisher/Lecturer Cultural Practitioner

approaches to cultural inclusion, gender equity and racial parity.

At the same time, the rise of U.S. socio-economic, health and public safety challenges being faced, also saw a rise in the influx of new immigrant families, asylum seekers and resettlement issues happening. While this was primarily due to the inordinate growth in regional/national gang wars, cartel violence and political/economic destabilization in other countries. The popular American news and policy reaction was to name this emergency population influx an 'immigrant crisis.' However, this influx mirrors America's "Great Migration" of African American Blacks fleeing the life-threatening "Jim Crow" South for better opportunities and careers for their families. Similarly, global migrations that came through Ellis Island processed more than 12 million 'immigrants' from Italy, Poland, Russia, Asia, England, Ireland, France and Germany.

With "Celebrating My Cultural Roots," we are excited to build cross cultural understanding and ethnic equity toward sustainable community-building. Our work centers on cultivating conversations where each person takes a turn, also called 'conversational turns,' in literacy research circles. We're not just promoting storytelling by these students as a means of enriching cultural self-esteem, we are showcasing their self-development, perspective and comfort with learning to read and write in a new language with and for their peers, families and friends. Publishing this work also shows a world of pride and acceptance and rejects the injustice of news shaming. We hope you enjoy each story in celebration of the families these students both cherish and admire.



*Timothy McLaughlin, Principal  
Irwin Jacobs Elementary School*



*Dear Students,*

*It has given me great pride and satisfaction to see you all take part in this project this year; to know your own story, and to be able to tell it to others is what makes you unique, what makes you interesting, and is a part of you that you will be able to share with others for the rest of your life! You've all worked so hard on this, and I thoroughly enjoyed reading your stories. I hope you continue to share them, and I am sure your family is proud to read them as well!*

*Many thanks to Mrs. Paula Robinson Deare and her husband Paul, and also to Ms. Baker and Mrs. Frenette on their hard work to bring this project together. These are the things that make the Jacobs School such a unique learning environment!*

*All the best,*

*Mr. McLaughlin*

*Ever since I was a little girl, I have loved listening to and reading stories. There's nothing better than learning about the life of another!*

*As I discovered where they came from, what they were going through and where they ended up, I was inspired to try new things, dream of far-away lands and to do my best to make a positive impact on the world like many of them did. These stories are a delightful collection written by our very own Irwin M. Jacobs Elementary School fifth grade students. They not only convey information about each individual's family heritage, but also reveal how truly unique and special they are. I am excited as their journey continues onward to middle school, for I know each one is prepared and will do great things in the future!*

*May they take with them all of the stories that have been deposited into their hearts, minds and spirits this year.*

Ms. Barlow



Patricia Barlow, Assistant Principal  
Irwin Jacobs Elementary School



Daniel Viegas, Teaching/Learning Specialist, Irwin Jacobs Elementary School

*Our students have stories!*

*As we cultivate memories and experiences, their stories flourish and give us a glimpse into who they are; individuals with complex emotions and perspectives. It is crucial that these young adults understand that their story is relevant and we hope that this platform launches further study into their heritage. As their words come to life, we are honored to hear their voices.*

Mr. Viegas



Left, right & below in blue: Karen L. Frenette 5th Grade ESL Teacher, Irwin Jacobs Elementary School

*Our diverse fifth-grade class had the opportunity to work with Mrs. Paula Robinson Deare to write and publish a booklet to share our cultural experiences as part of a grant program. Our students, who represent nine countries, first made collages to express their personalities, culture, aspirations and interests. They learned more about the geography of classmates' homelands through the exploration of globes. The children also interviewed their parents or grandparents to get their perspectives and incorporated what they learned from their families into their writing. This was a good opportunity for our children to learn more about themselves and their cultures.*



# Ms. Erin Baker

FROM PLACE BASED TO WEB BASED PRACTICES  
MODELS & METHODS FOR THE POWER OF VOICE



Center, right in white, below in black: Erin Baker, 5th Grade Teacher Irwin Jacobs Elementary School





Above: Brazil - <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-18909529>



I am 11 years old. I recently moved to New Bedford, Massachusetts from Brazil.

I am interested in learning about a lot of different subjects, including geography, electronics, and astronomy.

During my free time I enjoy playing sports, especially soccer. I have very good skills and can keep the ball away from other players because of my ball handling skills. I am also skilled at playing video games on Nintendo Switch and cycling. Another thing I like to do is tell funny jokes.

When I grow up my dream is to become a doctor. I am thinking about studying to become a cardiac surgeon. I would like to attend Oxford University in England.

I live in an apartment with my grandmother, my sister, two uncles, my aunt, and my cousin. We have a turtle for a pet.

My grandmother is my real-life hero. She has been taking good care of me since I was two-years old. She works hard to make sure we have food to eat and a place to live.

All of my family is from Brazil. We speak Portuguese. Brazil is a country that is located in South America and the capitol of Brazil is Brasilia.

One of my favorite foods that we made in Brazil is rice and beans. We also made stroganoff. The foods I like best so far in the United States are lasagna, pancakes, fried chicken,



and french fries.

My dream for the world is that there would be no more hunger. There are many people in every country that may be hungry, but in some places in Africa and other countries, hunger is very widespread.

One thing that I would like you to know about me is that I don't like rudeness.

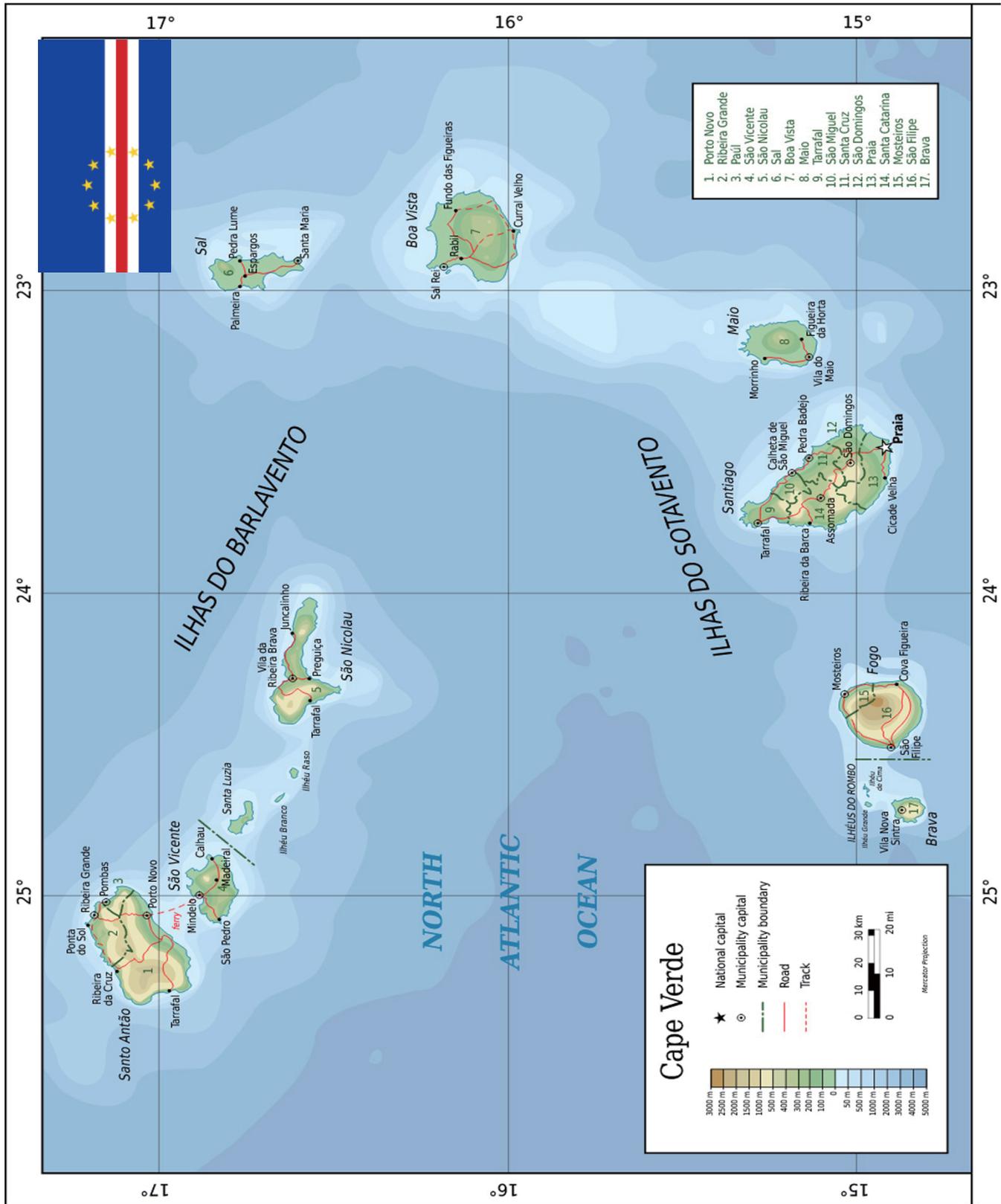


*Brazilian Rice & Beans*



*Lasagna*

# Cape Verde



Above: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Triangle\\_trade2.png#/media/File:Triangle\\_trade](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Triangle_trade2.png#/media/File:Triangle_trade)



All of my family, including my parents and grandparents are from Cape Verde.

I live with my mom and sister and we make foods from Cape Verde during special occasions.

I Like having long talks especially with my sister. I am a good brother, I am smart and funny, and good at basketball. My heroes are my mom and dad because they help me with everything. I love learning about cooking from my mom. I think it is important to help my family.

My family taught me to be a respectful person. If there is one thing I want people to know about me, it is that I am a respectful person.

My hobbies are shopping, playing basketball, and playing soccer. I also like to play Pokemon with my cousin Emmanuel on my phone and iPad. I like scary movies and superhero movies, like Superman. I like my neighborhood because I live close to the school and the beach.

I think it is important to speak up when someone is being bullied. I think it takes courage to tell an adult when something is wrong.

My most important strength is getting people to accept me, especially in new places.

One day, I want to learn to be a police officer.

Professional soccer player Cristiano Ronaldo inspires me to play soccer. I want to be a pro-



fessional soccer player to be able to help my mom. One of my strengths is being a good goalkeeper and I am a fast learner.

I speak Creole, English, Spanish, and Portuguese. I have traveled to Sao Paolo in Brazil and Cape Verde, where I learned to cook different foods.

My favorite thing about school is everything! I love my classes, lunch, and recess. My favorite way to learn is by listening and using my hands. The ACCESS test for English Language Literacy was something hard that I completed this year.

In the future, I want to go to college in the United States.

If I could change one thing in this world it would be to stop bullying in schools. I want everyone to be nice and respectful to their teachers and peers.



Above: Cristiano Ronaldo, Wikipedia.com

# *Dominican Republic*



Above: Students working on their vision boards for the brainstorming phase of this writing project.



Above: Dominican Republic - <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-19246340>

# M. Gil Colon

My family is originally from the Dominican Republic, but I feel good about my neighborhood here. I speak Espanol (Spanish) and I am still learning English, but I love reading.

My mom and dad are my heroes, we have long talks and they teach me to speak English. They make me very happy. I have traveled to a few places with them and I have learned that the United States is very pretty. One day I want to own a house here.

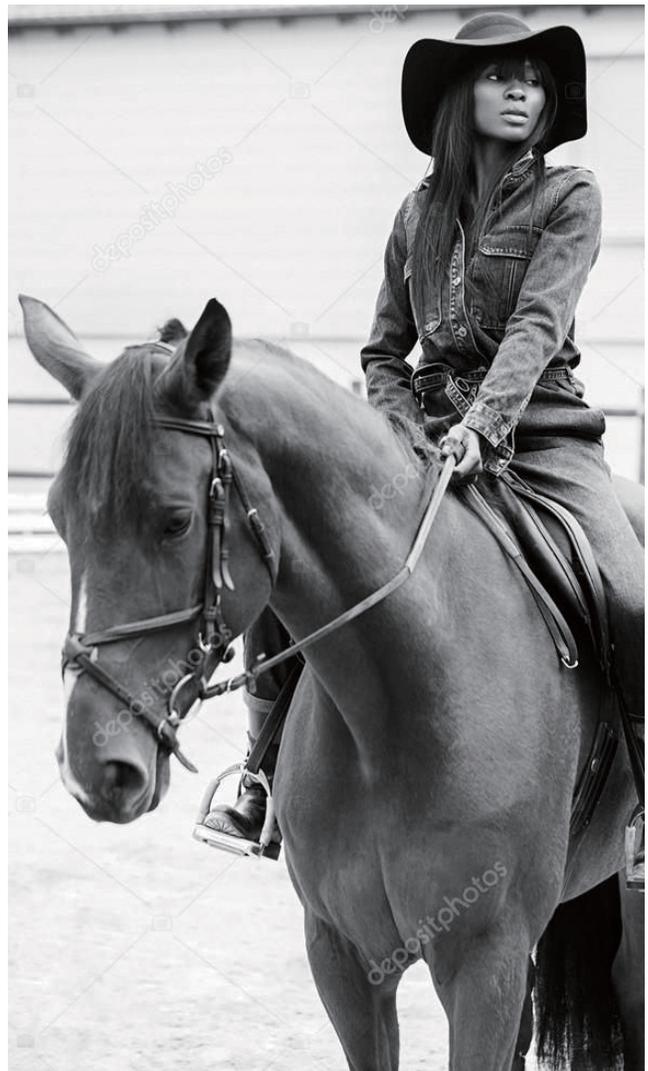
I consider myself happy and serious, I love being at home and I have good friends. I like my personality, my art, my little piano and horses. I really love horses. Learning to ride horses was a personal struggle that I had to overcome.

I like to play and cook rice and milk for special events. My favorite event is Christmas.

In school, the hardest thing I am working on is fractions, they are difficult, but I want to get better at math.

I think it's important to speak up in order to have people respect me and it's just brave to help people.

I dream of a career in art and think I may study art at college in New York. But I want to study to be an entrepreneur or horse trainer.



Above: Black Girl Magic by st2.Deposit Photos.com



# *El Salvador*



Above: El Salvador - <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-19401932>

# K. Menjivar Mijango

FROM PLACE BASED TO WEB BASED PRACTICES  
MODELS & METHODS FOR THE POWER OF VOICE

My parents and grandparents are from El Salvador , where it is very hot and where we make pupusas for celebrations.

I speak English and Spanish. I live in a safe neighborhood where I've made so many friends .

I am good at drawing and i think my story is important because there are others like me who need to hear and understand my feelings.

I like being a girl, but it is hard being a girl. I love that I am pretty and I like my hair and my eye-lashes. I inherited my looks from my mom. I think i am kind, funny, smart and confident, but sometimes I find it hard to trust people .

I am so good at basketball, basketball is my favorite hobby and i enjoy playing with my friends outside. I also like watching TV and movies. I also like watching Tik Tok on my phone 24/7.

In school, my hardest subject is science, but I enjoy math, reading and writing. My favorite way to learn is reading. I have to be braver when the teacher asks me to talk in front of other students , but I do try to help others when they need it. I want to be a nail artist and I plan to go to College while living in New Bedford.





My parents and grandparents are from El Salvador. My great, great grandmother lived to be 117 years old and my grandmother lived to be 97. I speak English and Spanish. I've learned from the places I've been and languages I heard.

My favorite person is my mom because she is always there for me. I live with my mom, my big sister and my dog.

I get to talk with my friends on the weekends and have long talks with my parents.

My family makes chicken soup and pupusas for special occasions and I like trying different foods. I enjoy cooking and eating what I make. I like video games, especially Fortnite.

I consider myself funny and friendly and confident. I think it's important to speak up when others are giving up. My superpower is to help people and sometimes I am the responsible one in the family.

I don't really like the way my neighbors look at me, but I like that I live near New Bedford High School and the Middle School.

My favorite subject about school is math. In classes, I raise my hand to answer a question. I'm motivated to become better because I want to be better than the best, especially at soccer. I want to make my mom proud. I also want to learn how to drive a car.

I'm really athletic and I want to be a profes-

sional soccer player, either a center back striker or center midfielder.

I think success means believing in your dreams. I think I am a good soccer player because my dad and grandfather played soccer every good morning. The hardest thing I'm working on now is the rainbow flick. My favorite event is the Champions League, a soccer tournament.

Outside my family one of my heroes is a professional soccer player Cristiano Ronaldo. I have learned it's important to never give up during difficult challenges.

My favorite person who shares about El Salvador is my president Nayib Bukele, because he is making my country a safer place.

If I could change one thing in the whole world it would be genders because I don't like them.



Above: Pupusas cheese, beans or meat stuffed griddle breads

# S. Abarca Quinonez

FROM PLACE BASED TO WEB BASED PRACTICES  
MODELS & METHODS FOR THE POWER OF VOICE



I like my home in El Salvador, where my parents and grandparents are from. The oldest person in my family is my grandfather. I speak English and Spanish. I want my brother and my sister to learn about my culture.

In my new home, I like my room and the community. I live with my mom, dad, brother and my baby sister who is 3 months old. My dad also has a garden and grows fruits and vegetables.

I like myself because I am funny and that's how I define my personality. My strength is to make people smile. But I believe honesty is the most important strength I have.

I like to learn about cooking, specially when my family celebrates with pupusas and chicken and rice.

My hobbies and activities include school, basketball, video games and soccer. I also like talking with my parents. I like to watch movies, my favorites are scary movies.

I am good at soccer and the hardest thing I am working on is to be better at soccer because I want to be a professional soccer player. My favorite soccer player is Cristiano Ronaldo because he inspires me to play.

My favorite thing about school is the gym.

I think 'speak up' when someone is being bullied. I think it takes a lot of courage to go to the front of the class to talk, so my favorite way to learn is

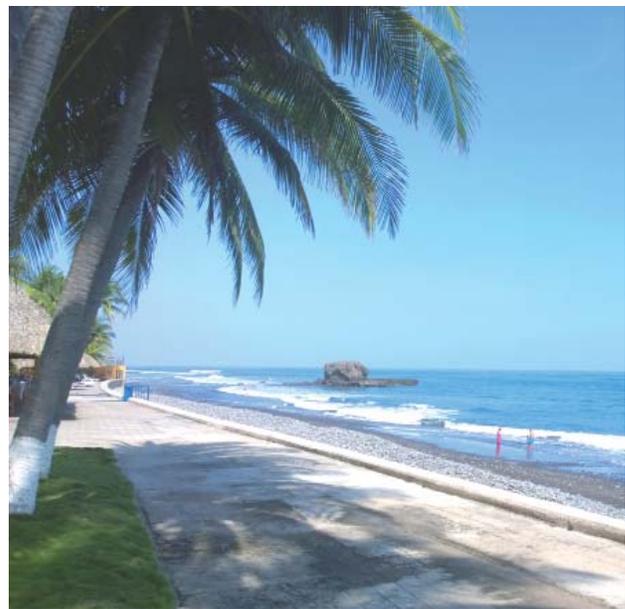


to be a good listener.

A personal struggle that I have overcome was to learn English. I might go to college someday, somewhere close to home. I also want to learn to drive a car, and I'd like to try skydiving because it looks fun.

My favorite place to travel is the El Salvador beaches. I learn about new food from places I have traveled to. But the hardest thing I have learned was how hard it is to travel.

If I could change one thing about the world it would be to not contaminate it.



Above: El Salvador - La Libertad, El Sunzal Wikimedia

# Guatemala



Above: Guatemala - <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-19635877>

# A. Chingo Coj



My parents and grandparents are from Guatemala and we make tamales for holiday celebrations. I like to go to Providence with my family because we go to a restaurant.

I live in a calm neighborhood with my family and I have long talks with my parents and my brothers about school.

I like to try new things and I like to play tag. I am brave, respectful and I am kind. My favorite movie is coco. My hero is Leo Messi because he inspires me to want to be better at soccer.

I like to make new friends at school. I am learning English and I am learning how to write better. I am practicing to be responsible. I am learning to speak more loudly when we present in school. The Access English Language test was hard for me but I did it! I am working on math, but it is really hard for me.

My favorite thing about school is the gym. If I could change one thing about school it would be no rules.

I want to go to college, far away where I get to travel. Then I want to be a teacher for elementary school.



Tamales with corn masa, chicken & veggies - Wikipedia



Leo Messi - Wikipedia



My grandparents are in their 60's and they still live in Guatemala. In Guatemala we lived in a house in the country, but in the U.S.A we live in the city and it is really hard to get used to.

When we came to the United States, we learned how hard it is to travel and to learn English and how it was to get used to a new neighborhood.

My languages are English and Spanish. Something hard for me is the accent. It was really hard for me to learn English. I have long talks with my parents, they are proud of me and my English skills. My mom and dad are fun, they teach us through their life stories.

My dad is teaching me how to ride a mini-motorcycle. When I grow up I want to learn how to drive a car like my dad.

I think my dad is brave because in Guatemala one day a goat was stuck in a hole so my dad went to see him but it was raining they past two hours and the rain stopped but my dad didn't come back so my mom went to see about him if they were good and they all came back; my dad was good and my mom too.

My mom and dad are my heroes because they take care of my family and teach us how to do things. I have three sisters and one brother at home. I enjoy getting help from my mom, she is teaching me how to cook. My favorite foods are tamales and chuchitos. I inherit my cooking skills from mom.

Did you know Guatemala has a culture park like Six Flags? I learned about the culture of my community there and it made me proud. Guatemala is beautiful.

I'm competitive, I want to win all the time. I like that I am really good at video gaming with Mortal Kombat 1 and Fifa 24 - a video football game. My favorite event is the Fifa World Cup. I like to watch and learn, and then practice.

I think my personality is a little fun. I like playing soccer during recess, I want to be a soccer player.

I think it's important to speak up and be heard when it's time to solve problems, it's important to be fun, serious and brave.

My favorite thing about school is free time. When I finish school and get ready for a career, I think I'd like to go to college for sports. I learned that Springfield College is a sports college that is not far away. I also want to study to be an electrician or a plumber who fixes things like my dad.

If I can share one thing about my story, it would be how hard it was living in and leaving Guatemala. We had to leave behind our country and our culture to come to the U.S.A.

If I could change anything in the world, it would be hunger, because people should not go hungry.

# Honduras

FROM PLACE BASED TO WEB BASED PRACTICES  
MODELS & METHODS FOR THE POWER OF VOICE



Above: Honduras - <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-18954311>



My family is from Honduras in central America, where the beaches are beautiful! We have long talks and I am learning Honduran food like tajadas con pollo, it's my most important lesson.

My mom and dad always help me with anything I need, my mom even taught me how to sing. I also like babies - and I'm a good babysitter, but it is difficult having a new brother at eleven. I like dogs and like playing basketball.

When there is no school, I like reading, music, dancing, and playing on my virtual reality or PS4 TV. I also like scary movies, swimming, playing with my cousins and my friends and going on trips.

My favorite place to go is the shoe store in Dartmouth mall. I like picking out my shoes as well as clothes when we go to the mall. I want to learn how to make money on shoes.

I just don't like people fighting.

I like school because I'm learning to study different things like work and careers. I learn by listening and I'm pretty confident and responsible, one thing I'm working on in school is the Access English literacy test.

I hope to go to college - I want to go to college in Hollywood, CA because I like being in hot weather. I know it will take courage to get a job and I will have to work hard to succeed, but I really want to be a doctor, an obstetrician.



# *E. Mejia Espinoza*

FROM PLACE BASED TO WEB BASED PRACTICES  
MODELS & METHODS FOR THE POWER OF VOICE



My family is from Honduras, where it is beautiful, but people don't have a lot of money. I speak English and Spanish and I have long talks with my parents. I have traveled to Miami, and Honduras. One of my favorite foods from Honduras is Pollo con Tajadas. I love candy so much and spicy chips.

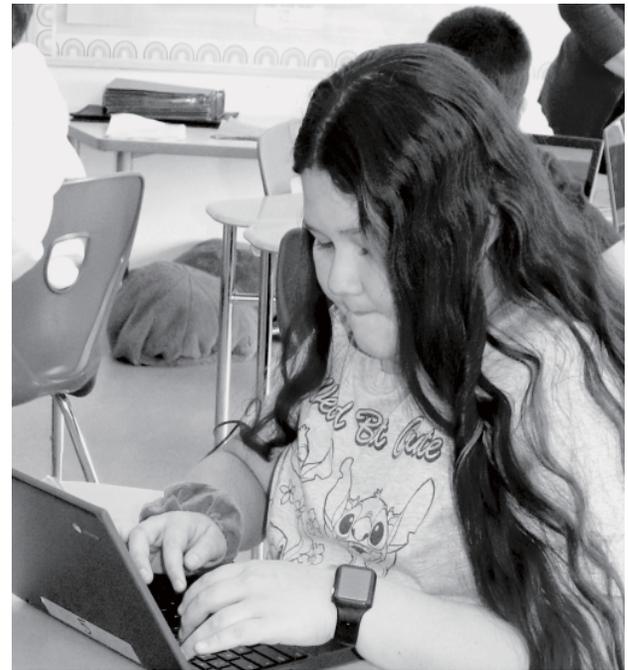
I learned English while living in New Bedford. My family here is mainly my mom, dad and myself with two little sisters who are very mean to me. I don't like being the oldest sister because it's too much work, but I like playing with my two sisters and also with my family.

I play the trumpet. I'm sometimes kind, but I'm always nervous. I think being respectful to my family and my teachers is really important because they make me feel safe. I have good friends that are also kind.

The hardest thing I've tried in school is the Access English Literacy test.



## Z. Cartagena Lemus



My family is from Honduras and for special occasions we make baleadas tacos and pollo con tajadas. Honduras is hot and has a lot of beaches.

I speak English and Spanish and I have long talks with my family. They are my heroes because they can save me if something happens to me. I have an aunt who is forty and she is the oldest in my family.

Some of my favorite places we have also traveled are Texas and Miami and more, I learned that they are also pretty places.

At home I play with my sister and watch videos on my phone. I like the movie Lilo and Stitch. I like going to birthday partys because they are fun.

I think I am confident and brave. I have learned to be responsible. I help people when it is needed.

I learn when people show me how to do something.

If I could change one thing about this world it would be that people should stop being mean.



# Jamaica

FROM PLACE BASED TO WEB BASED PRACTICES  
MODELS & METHODS FOR THE POWER OF VOICE



Above: Jamaica - <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-18784061>

## J. Samuel Williams

Right now, my household is made up of my dad and my younger brother and sister. I have three older brothers who are going to visit us soon. We live in a nice neighborhood. My dad's parents are from Jamaica, but they live in Massachusetts, so we moved here to be closer to them.

On special occasions we make roti, meat pies and other things from Jamaica. We have long talks about all of the things that are going on in the city and around the world when we are at the dinner table. I'm learning how to cook, right now. My brother Jaden is teaching me how to make noodles and then we will work on rice. I want to be able to help my family cook.

My mom is one of my favorite people, she loved art and pretty flowers. I feel comfortable saying that I lost her last year, she is in heaven now, but she will always be in my heart. Losing my mom was my hardest personal struggle. Thinking about my mom gives me superpowers and it reinforces my character. I remember her telling me to think about her whenever I am in a bad situation and that makes me feel more confident and strong enough to handle things. I even came up with a saying called, "No sad thoughts."

When my friends argue, I am able to help them become friends again, I consider that successful. I love video games, my dad got me into playing Fortnite where you can make your own world and build cities. I'm really good at it, I know how to make a whole city. My dad is my hero, he protects me and my sisters and brothers. Dad inspires me by making me laugh, he moved my whole family here and he works hard to keep our family together.

I also play roadblocks, it's a peaceful game where you can combine different games and it allows you to make other people happy by creating new spaces and events. Spiderman No-Way Home is my favorite movie because it inspires me to be like him or create a movie with young heroes like him.



I want to learn how to make people more peaceful and happy, it is my wish that the world becomes a happier place. The hardest thing I'm working on right now is helping my cousins be more peaceful.

My personality is complex, I have found myself sad when I think about my mom, happy when my friends make me laugh, angry when really upset and "hungry" (really hungry) sometimes, but mostly calm and friendly.

My favorite thing about school is how nice and calm the people are. I also like the cafeteria. I'm new to New Bedford, and I've already made friends here in school. I like nice people who are easy to get along with. I respect people who are having a hard time and I believe there are times when it is important to speak up. I spoke up at my old school when a student was being bullied. I'm working really hard to get better at reading and writing. I want to be able to write my own stories so that people can enjoy them.

I have always wanted to go to college. I have dreamed of being a video game creator and a movie producer. I would love to study art, maybe in New York, it is one of my favorite places, because people are nice and the city is beautiful. I hope my story motivates people to become happier.

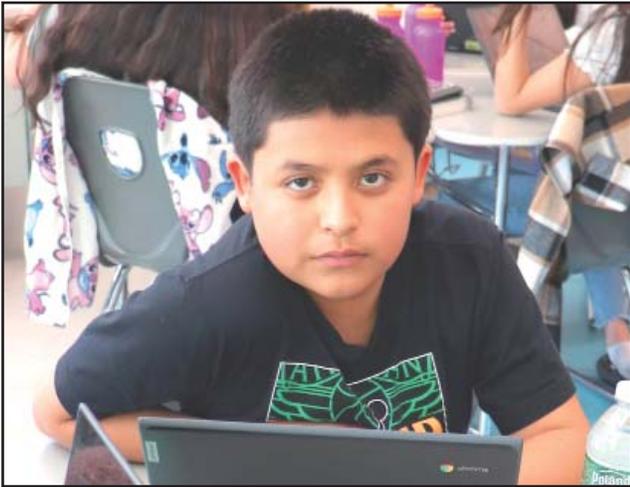
# Mexico

FROM PLACE BASED TO WEB BASED PRACTICES  
MODELS & METHODS FOR THE POWER OF VOICE



Above: Mexico - <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-18095241>

## *A. Cisneros Ojeda*



I am from San Luis Potosi, Mexico. In Mexico they celebrate every year the Day of the Dead, Mexican Independence Day, Hero Children, the Cry of Sorrows, Christmas, Valentine's Day, and the Day of the Virgin of Guadalupe. For these and other family events, they make foods like tamales, tacos, pozole, ponche de frutas, menudo and chilaquiles.

I like to play with my friends and with my family. We play soccer, basketball and baseball.



# F. Ciprian



I can speak Spanish and English and my family can speak a little bit of English like my mom and dad. I also talk to my mom and dad in English often and they understand me but. Me and my siblings all can talk English and Spanish.

My family is from Mexico and for celebrations we make tamales and tacos. I live with my mom and siblings and I have traveled to Florida and Miami with my family - Florida is very pretty.

In school I want to learn more about writing and math. I've learned that it is really important that the people respect me. I am also in girls on the run and at the beginning of spring we are going to run three miles. I also wanted to learn more math and even though it is sometimes hard and difficult for me and am also working on getting better on math and reading.





I am from Mexico. My grandmother taught many things about making food and taking care of the little birds that she had in her house. My friends and I played with them, and I had fun.

In Massachusetts, I really like to draw and make art. I like to learn a lot and I have learned many things. When I went to school I studied and went out to play. I even heard the teachers talk because the children were fighting.

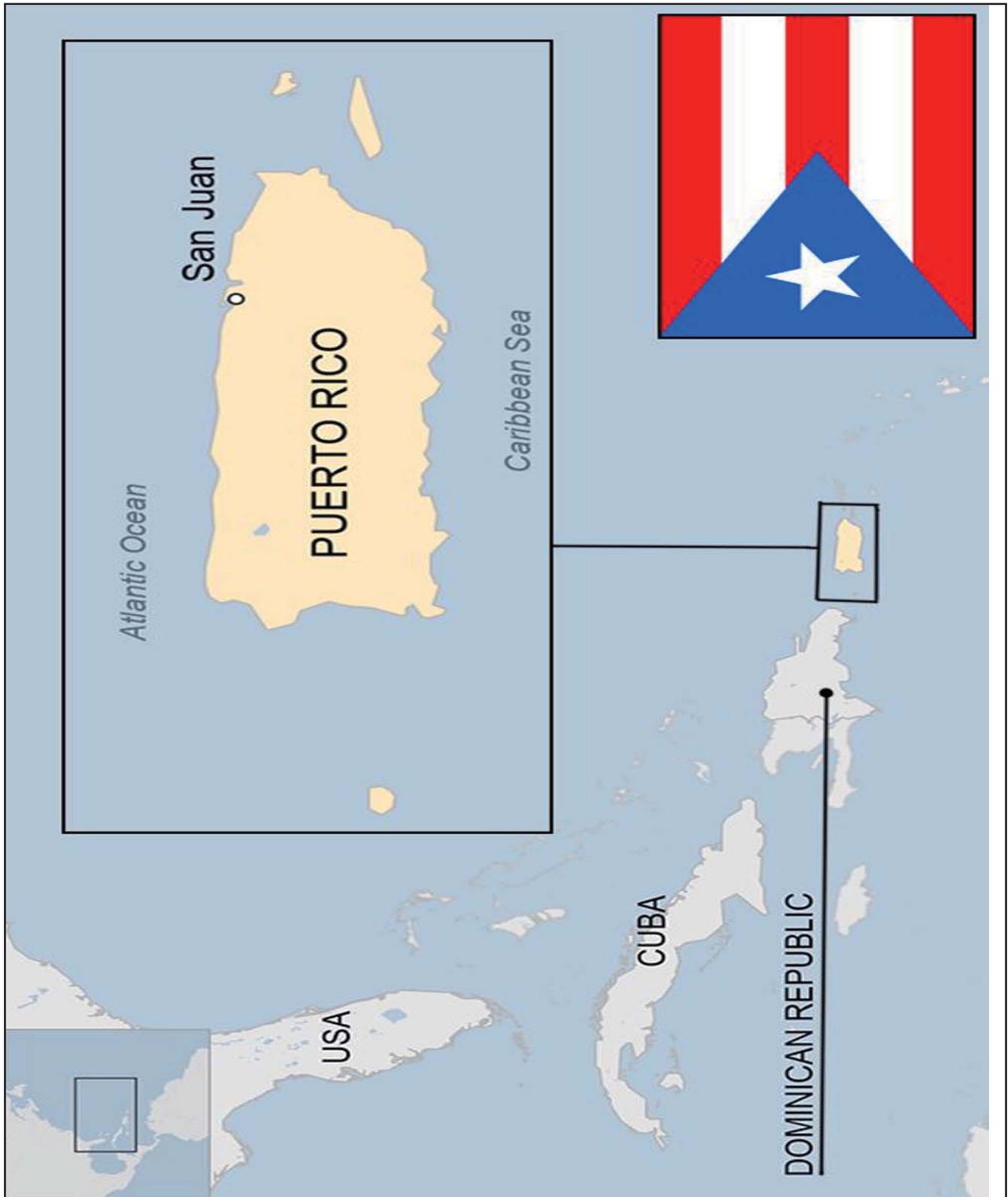
When I got home from school we did a lot of new things too, I could watch TV and study.

When my family goes out shopping we give money to people who need help.



# Puerto Rico

FROM PLACE BASED TO WEB BASED PRACTICES  
MODELS & METHODS FOR THE POWER OF VOICE



Above: Puerto Rico - <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-17139243>



My family is from Puerto Rico and for holidays we make arroz con guacamole y potato.

I love my mom and my family. We have traveled to Miami, Puerto Rico and Mexico. I speak Spanish and I'm learning stronger English, so traveling these places has helped me have long talks with my parents to practice. It was really important for me to learn to speak really good English.

I am brave and kind and I like the way I look.

I am inspired by my brother and my friends. It is my favorite hobby to play with my friends.

I am often reading and I like watching videos on my phone. I am really good at basketball. I am also good at drawing, but I want to learn more about it.

I also want to learn how to do nails.

In school one thing that is hard for me is really being brave. It takes a lot of courage to speak up in class.

I'm not sure if I plan to go to college, but I do plan on working because I want to buy a house maybe in Puerto Rico.



# M. Raspaldo Dominguez

FROM PLACE BASED TO WEB BASED PRACTICES  
MODELS & METHODS FOR THE POWER OF VOICE



I have a lot of relatives, but my grandpa is the oldest person in my family. We are from Puerto Rico where it is hot. My favorite places to travel with my family are New York and Puerto Rico. When I travel to Puerto Rico, I enjoy seeing the stray cats and dogs because they are kind. We have a family friend who sells kittens there. I like who I am. I think of myself as a normal person. I speak English and Spanish, and I am good at understanding things. For celebrations we make delicious food.

I live with my mom, dad, sisters, brother, and our cat named Garfield. I have long talks with my parents, who are my heroes. They taught me to speak English.

When I get into trouble, my dad tries really hard to be there for me. My mom is always there for me, too.

I like my neighborhood here because my neighbors are kind and I live near friends. I enjoy having fun and playing games. I like playing video games with my friends and family, but I do want to get better at gaming. I really like listening to music, and my favorite songs are by Bad Bunny



because he makes really good music.

I'm athletic and my natural talent is running. I practice running with my older brother while he prepares to join the army.

My hobbies are playing soccer and basketball, and I've dreamed about being a professional basketball player. The hardest thing I am working on right now is getting better at basketball. I practice every day at home after school.

Also, I want to learn to do a backflip while I'm still young.

I try really hard in school, and learning English was a challenge for me because I natively speak Spanish. English is one of the most important things I have learned.

My favorite thing about school is writing, and I practice my handwriting in order to improve it. I study vocabulary words even outside of school.

I consider success being student of the month. I think it is important to stand up and be heard when we do presentations. I really try to be kind in school. It takes courage to be friendly and to speak up. I plan to go to college when I am nineteen. I want to study to be a streaming gamer.



Part of my family is from Puerto Rico. My great grandmother who is 86 lives there and I have lot of fun with my cousins there, especially Evan my best friend who still lives in Puerto Rico. I like to practice playing basketball with my friends in Puerto Rico.

My dad and my grandparents really look out for me. We live in a quiet neighborhood in New Bedford, and we travel together to places like Geogia.

I like to read, draw and build Legos. My favorite book is Diary of a Wimpy Kid and my favorite movies are all Star Wars.

My personality is fun and brave. I speak Spanish and English but i want to learn French or Portuguese. Languages are hard but I think it's important, so I can speak up to let people know when something is wrong.

My favorite things about school are art, the gym and the playground. I like to play soccer and basketball outdoors and I think about being a basketball player.

I am a really good artist, my aunt has been teaching me to draw since I was five years old. I want to be an artist when I grow up.

When I want to learn something hard, I practice by myself. The hardest thing I am working on is to draw with characters on the same page. I'm



learning to draw pages of art, like for a comic book. It's hard to learn.

I would like to go to a good school for college so that I can work as an artist and learn to sell my art.

If I could change something in the world, it would be contamination.



# United States

FROM PLACE BASED TO WEB BASED PRACTICES  
MODELS & METHODS FOR THE POWER OF VOICE



Above: United States of America - Map of the United States by National Atlas.gov



My family is made up of my mom who is French, Italian, and Portuguese and my step-dad who is from Texas, my real dad who is Irish, Native American and two sisters, four brothers and my cat. The oldest person in my family is my grandpa, he is 89.

I know that Portugal has good food and my mom likes to cook cachupa. My Step- dad is really nice and always there for me, he likes to make chorizo and eggs. My family is really nice and we talk a lot. I consider being happy is to be successful.

I can draw kinda good, I speak English and I'm learning German. I learn fast with certain things. My favorite way to learn is physical, I can do a split, cartwheel and a handstand. My good traits are my flexibility, kindness and fast learning.

I want to be a famous singer and guitarist . I like my style, its unique vintage and avant-Garde. I like my music taste and I want to learn how to play electric guitar because music is a strength for me. I think singing in front of people is brave. My favorite events are concerts. But, if I could get people to understand one thing about me, it's I'm not related to singer Ed Sheeran. Outside of my family my heroes are German singer songwriter, Bill Kaulitz and his twin, Tom Kaulitz and American singer songwriter Gerard Way, they inspire me to be a rock star.



I'm also inspired by Rosa Parks for her braveness.

I learned to be careful with the paranormal when I went to Salem, Massachusetts.

I have overcome a struggle of not eating meat and my favorite thing about school is lunch.

When not in school I study German and guitar.

I want to go to Harvard in Boston, MA - but my career goal is to be a famous guitarist and singer like my heroes.

I think it's important to speak up when being bullied. My most important lesson is don't judge someone when you first meet them, because you don't know their background.

If I could change one thing about the world it would be to give all homeless people a home and car.



# I. Ramos



My mom and family are from Portugal. I had traveled to Florida before, but I really want to go to Hawaii. I speak English but I'm learning Creole. Some of my favorite people are my mom and grandma; my uncle and my pets. The oldest people I know are my grandmother's brothers.

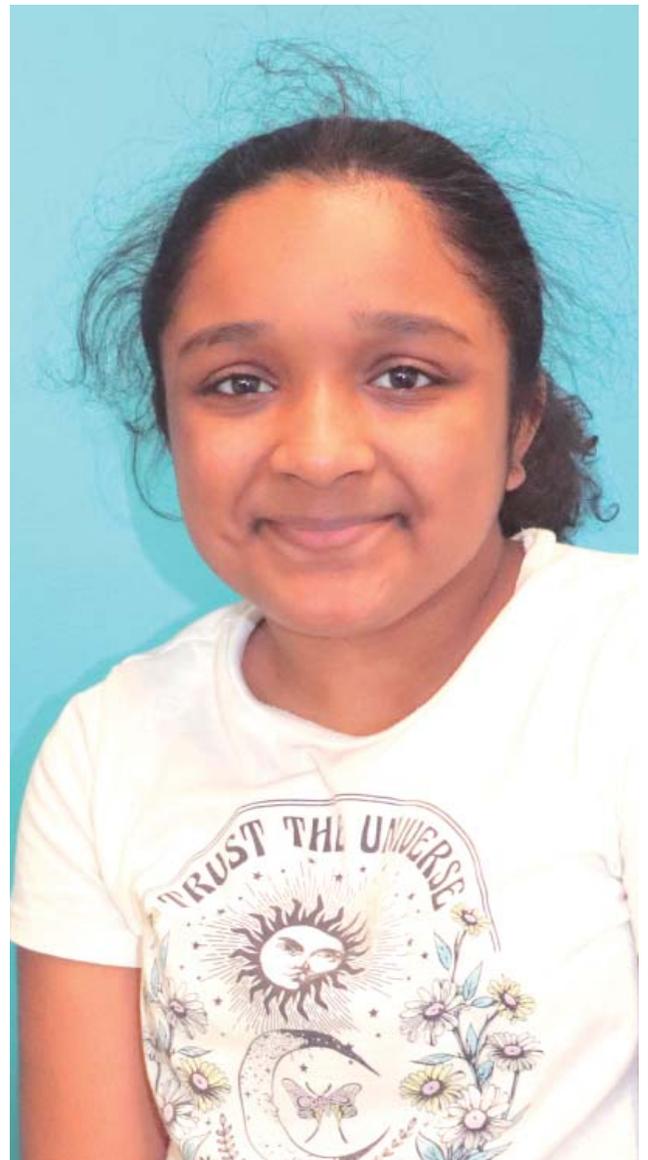
I don't know about my natural talents, but I am smart and I like my style, my eyes, and my taste in music, some of my non fiction heroes are in music. I want to learn how to sew and I like baking and my favorite event is christmas.

I feel safe in my neighborhood. My favorite activities other than school are going outside and playing volleyball or going horseback riding.

The hardest thing I am working on finishing is the reading adventure series, "The tale of Despereaux."

One of my personal struggles is being impatient; but being brave is an important trait, so is being respectful. I also think it's important to speak up for yourself.

My favorite subjects in school are reading, writing and math. When I'm not in school I study space. My favorite way to learn is by using computers. I want to be an Astrophysicist and study space or work in law; either way, I plan on going to college, because I consider college is success. I want to be either an astrophysicist or a lawyer.





My grandparents are from Cape Verde and my parents are Cape Verdean, I speak English. I have traveled with my family to Florida, Virginia Beach, and New Jersey.

I am close with my mom, my aunt, and my cousins. I like myself, my culture, my hair, and that I'm nice and courageous. My cousins say that I am the best cousin, not all of my cousins are easy to get along with.

At home, I like napping, cooking, reading, shopping, and watching T.V. I'm learning about King Henry VIII and his six wives. My favorite books are the Drama, Sisters, and Guts adventure series. I also like going on my phone apps Tik Tok and Snapchat, as well as art.

Outside, I like volleyball- I really want to get good at it.

The hardest thing I am working on in school is math. I learn best when shown how to do something by someone. My best friend in school is Jezell because she is funny and nice. I think it's important to speak up and be heard in class, and when you're asked.

I don't know where I plan to go to college yet, but I'm keeping it in mind.

If I could change one thing about the world it would be to stop world hunger.



# J. Carter

## FROM PLACE BASED TO WEB BASED PRACTICES MODELS & METHODS FOR THE POWER OF VOICE



My grandpa is the oldest in my family and my grandparents are from Massachusetts. My parents are from Lakeville not too far from New Bedford. I like getting away from my neighborhood once in a while with my family, one of our favorite places to travel is Boston, MA.

My parents are my heroes because they love me and I'm close with my friends who are my favorite people, but they all make me earn special things. We make steak and cheese subs and ham dinner for celebrations.

I like being me, I like my hair, I like personality - it is so hyped but I like the way I express myself. I am funny and caring. My favorite things are food and TV and movies. My favorite TV shows are by Dhar Mann.

I spend a lot of time with my friends out of school, but I also take dance lessons at the dance academy. I think it important to try new things. I like music from Drake and SZA.

In school the hardest thing is math. I love working with art and my favorite thing in school is my friends.

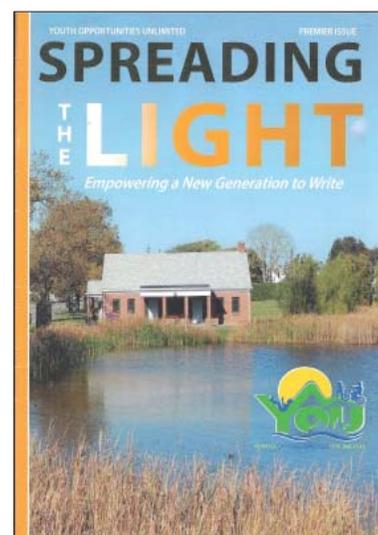
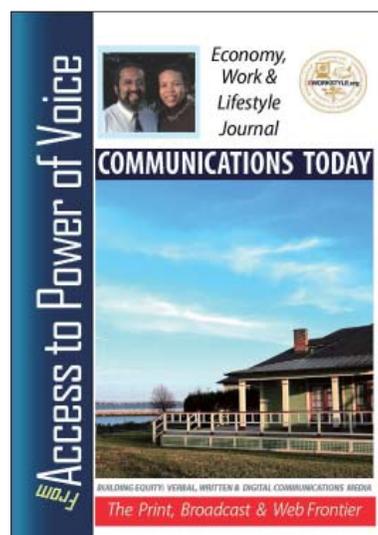
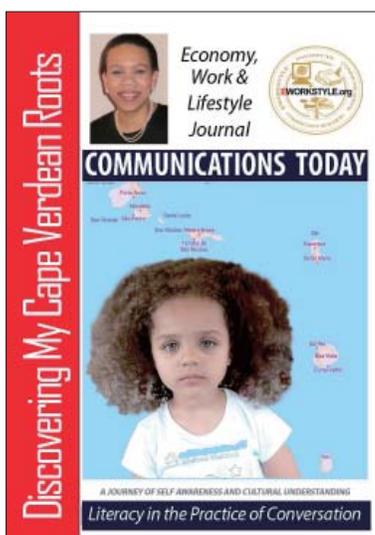
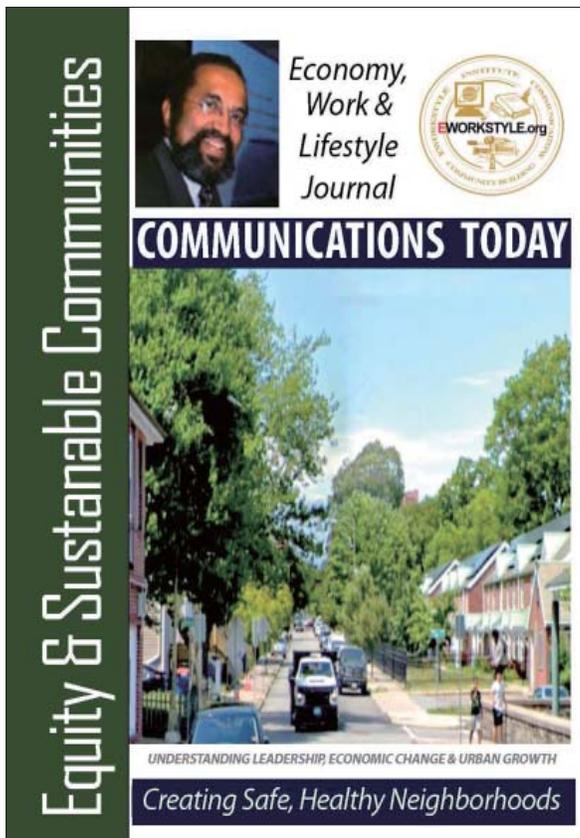
I want to learn how to be a hairstylist and a nail tech. I hope to go to college in Miami, FL.

If I could change one thing about the world it would be no cussing.



# More Issues in this Series

Building on a 30 year track record of teaching communications across communities and colleges, we've put our training online to reach American cities and regions around the world. The objective is to get individuals past feeling that globalization is solely about corporate enhancement. Globalization is also lifelong learning, professional growth and self-empowerment toward livable wages.



**Literacy for a Livable Wage**  
online at [www.eworkstyle.org](http://www.eworkstyle.org)

Eworkstyle Publications  
ISBN: 978-0-9799585-1-2  
SKU: 2 3001 0424 022 1

