



COURSE CONNECTIONS – ASSIGNMENT IDEAS

Juan Jose Lopez, “Cesar Chavez and the Chicano Movement”

Discussion or Reflection Paper Questions:

1. Assess the strengths and weaknesses of a piece of written commentary that addresses ongoing debates in the U.S. about immigration and immigrant workers (news, editorial, public speech, scholarly essay)
2. How would you assess Cesar Chavez’ significance –as a labor leader, as a civil rights leader, as a religious figure?
3. In what ways was the Chicano movement similar to and/or different from the Black Civil Rights movement occurring at the same time?
4. In what ways was the Chicano movement similar to and/or different from the labor movement (trade unions)?

Research Paper:

1. Examine the origins of the Bracero Program between the U.S. and Mexico, paying particular attention to the groups and arguments in favor of the Bracero Program and how these differed from the groups and arguments in opposition to the Bracero Program.
2. In what ways was Chavez’s opposition to the Bracero Program related to the Chicano Movement?
3. Examine the impact and fate of the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act.
4. Examine how economic conditions in outside the U.S., as well as international trade policies, have contributed to new patterns of immigration and migration. Focus on a specific trade policy or economic situation.
5. Examine how competition over resources, power, or status has contributed to conflicts between groups. Focus on a specific group, time period, and place.