Ismael Torres

Ms. Mclean

English 11

September 20, 2013

American or not

 Have you ever wondered what it means to be American? This is the way I define myself to be American and what it means to be American. Well what I think it means to be American is to be able to come together as a nation and be one , by being a hard worker, and by doing what makes you happy. I was born here in America; even though that makes me American I feel that there are other aspects that make me American.

 I know that I am American because not only was I born here my mom and my grandmothers were born here, not only that but my family are hard workers. My grandfather and my dad immigrated here but after a while they got their U.S citizenship. This makes me American because mostly everyone in my family migrated here to the U.S for a better life. Here is a quote from john Steinbeck’s E pluribus Unum that supports my reason of why my reason makes me American, “we became more alike than we were different—a new society; not great but filled by our very faults for greatness…” (Steinbeck page 1).this quote also supports my evidence, “In the beginning we crept, scuttled, escaped, were driven out of the safe and settled corners of the earth… some rulers granted large sections of unmapped territory, in places they did not own or even know…” (Steinbeck page 1). This supports my evidence because it says that everyone around the world was granted this large territory and that they were all forced to move here.

 This quote supports my argument because it talks about how the people in America became more alike because they all chased or are chasing the same dream.

I am also American because everyone that lives in America enjoys doing what they do. What this means is that the jobs people have, is the job they enjoy doing. This also means that everyone’s job in America influences one another. Walt Whitman’s I hear America

Singing quotes, “Each singing belongs to him or her and to none else” (Whitman line 9). This quote supports my argument because everyone that works has their own way of working and no one works the same as that person. Another quote that supports my argument is, “Singing with open mouths their strong melodious songs…” (Whitman 11). This quote supports my definition of being American because my family when they came here they enjoyed working and the types of jobs they had.

 I can also define myself as American because everyone in this nation comes together as one and supports each other. There are times when necessary when everyone comes together as one to help out neighboring nations. We also come together as one to help each other in the time of need. A quote from john Steinbeck’s E pluribus Unum supports my argument it says, “When his family grew up about him he set it against all other families...when communities arose, each one defended itself against other communities…” (Steinbeck page 1). This quote supports my argument because it is saying how everyone came together as one to defend its land. Another quote that supports my definition of being American is, “How all these fragments of the peoples of the world who settled America became one people is not only a mystery but quite contrary to their original wishes and intentions…” (Steinbeck page 2). This quote supports my definition of what makes me American because it says that as much as we wanted to be different, in the end we became one and the same, because we seek the same intentions.

 This is what makes me American; this is my definition of being American. These are just some things that make me American. I am happy to be American, I love doing what I’m doing. I love the country I live in, and I love the people in it. I know that I am American because I am happy and doing what I love to do. This is how I know that I am American and how this defines me being American.

Works Cited

 “When his family grew up about him he set it against all other families...when communities arose, each one defended itself against other communities…” (Steinbeck paragraph 5 lines 4-5)

“Each singing belongs to him or her and to none else” (Whitman line 9)

“We became more alike than we were different—a new society; not great but filled by our very faults for greatness…” (Steinbeck paragraph 4 line 3)

“How all these fragments of the peoples of the world who settled America became one people is not only a mystery but quite contrary to their original wishes and intentions…” (Steinbeck page 2).

“Singing with open mouths their strong melodious songs…” (Whitman 11)

“In the beginning we crept, scuttled, escaped, were driven out of the safe and settled corners of the earth… some rulers granted large sections of unmapped territory, in places they did not own or even know…” (Steinbeck page 1)