

Interview Transcript

1. Tell me about yourself. Where and when were you born? When did you move to Ventura County? (if relevant) What do you do? What were some of your previous occupations? What was your childhood dream?

My name is Juan and I was born in August 26th, 1993, in Mexico. I moved to Ventura County at the age of one and have been living here since then. I graduated from high school in 2010 and I just been working in the fields. My childhood dream was to be an engineer or just graduate from college and get a good job.

2. Tell me about your family. How many? How old are they? Where are they?

I have two brothers and my two parents. My older brother is 20 and my little brother is 10 years. My older brother is married and lives in Santa Paula and the rest of us live together.

3. (If the interviewee is an immigrant) When did you come to the US? Where did you arrive? How was the adjustment process like? What was the most surprising aspect of your experience?

We came to the U.S when I was a year old, in Oxnard. I had to learn a second language because my parents only spoke Spanish. Going to school and hanging around other kids who spoke English was very different

4. When did your hardship begin? Describe your hardship. What was the most surprising aspect of your experience? What was most painful? (ask other related questions)

My hardship began when after I graduated High School because I wasn't accepted to college because I do not own citizenship. I wasn't able to work at fast food places so I had to work in the fields. Not being able to go to college was painful for me.

5. How has your life changed because of this hardship? (ask follow-up questions related to the suggested topics, such as health, crime, housing, and food insecurity)

My life has kind of change because I have to work every day in the fields but mostly how the fact of going to school.

6. How did you cope? Who helped you? What was helpful?

As of right

now only my parents support me and work hard to help me get through.

7. Did you try to receive any type of government assistance? (if relevant) Why or why not? (Government assistance includes food stamps (CalFresh), cash assistance (CalWORKS), and Medi-Cal)

I am currently applying for the Dream Act and hope I get residency here so I can go to school.

8. Whom or what did you blame for your hardship? (the economy, the society, government, your family, or yourself)

I don't blame anyone because things happen.

9. Have your views on society, America, or life changed because of your hardship?

It kind of has because now I know that working hard here in the U.S is not easy and people who own citizenship should value that and go to college and receive a degree and not get involved in bad things. I say this because many young teens are dropping out of school or not going to college and I feel they should feel lucky they are given the opportunity to live in the U.S and have the chance to be someone in life

10. Reflection questions: Why did you decide to do the interview? What do you want the government (or others) to know about you and your experience? What life lessons have you learned from your experience? Where did you draw the strength to endure and persevere through your hardship?

I chose to do this interview because I am very open to this topic and I want to let the people out there know that most of us who live here illegal and those who have been their whole life, are only here to succeed. Many people think we commit crimes but honestly that's something that it will happen by citizens even if we are not living here. We are here to work hard and live a better life.

11. Are you hopeful for the future? Why or why not?

I can say I am hopeful for the future because I have been since I was young and now that the Dream Act has passed I feel I can finally obtain residency and go to school.

Anything else that you want to add?