

Luca Djukic

9-4

12 May 2023

## Racism against Hispanics

According to the Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary, the term Racism means “a belief that race is a fundamental determinant of human traits and capacities and that racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race” (“Racism”). When Luis was a child his dad lost his job so he and his family moved from Mexico to Los Angeles after hoping they could obtain the American dream, Luis needs to overcome racism from police, schools, and his community to acquire it. Racism has made barriers that have kept many people from obtaining the American dream and held people back throughout history and in the present but with empowerment, people can break through these barriers and help others break through them as well.

In the vivid memoir *Always Running* by Luis Rodriguez, Luis is a Hispanic who tries to acquire the American dream but first has to overcome barriers put up by racism in his new home in Los Angeles, California. As Luis grew up he had to move from house to house school to school and neighborhood to neighborhood. But America wasn't as great as they thought it would be. When Luis went to school the teachers didn't know where to put him because he didn't speak English so they stuck him in the back of the class or he would end up in special ed classes where he couldn't learn. As he matured he would join school gangs and get into fights and would

regularly get suspended. Other non-Hispanic students would say racist things toward him and would get away with it because teachers didn't care. When Luis and his friends would walk the streets, police would stop them and search them just because they were Hispanic and as they searched Luis, he and his friends would get abused by the cops and just had to put up with it. As Luis grew up he would get jumped and beaten up by white kids in his neighborhood because they thought they were better than him because he was Hispanic. After all these horrible acts happened, he would resort to violence and get into fights and join gangs to have protection and to feel wanted. America wasn't as great as Luis and his family hoped but it would get better as Luis would overcome these barriers and change for the better and help others change as well.

## Works Cited

“Racism.” *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster,

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/racism>. Accessed 11 May. 2023.

Rodriguez, Luis. *Always running*. Touchstone, 2005.