**Essay Response #2**

The historical book, “Brown, Not White: *School Integration and the Chicano Movement in Houston*” is best summarized as a record of the life of Mexican Americans from the early 1900s to the 1970s and the struggles that they and the organizations representing them had to go through to obtain things like; legal recognition, equal educational opportunity, equality, and desegregation as well as the political mobilization necessary to achieve their goals. I theorize that the purpose of said record was to inform and remind people of all races about the struggles that were required to achieve the integrated and relatively equality-based Houston that is enjoyed today. There is a focus on the efforts of the Mexican American Education Council (MAEC) in particular during the later chapters of the book, which was an unrecognized council spearheading most of the political actions taken at the beginning of the Chicano movement.

A group of men sitting at a podium

Description automatically generated“MAEC press conference calling for boycott of public schools, Saturday, August 29, 1970. (left to right: Raymond Rodríguez, David Ortiz, Leonel Castillo, Gregory Salazar, Jaime de la Isla, Lucia R. Moreno.) Courtesy Houston Chronicle, Houston Metropolitan Research Center” (SAN G1-1).

It is my belief that Guadlupe wanted his readers to learn of what really goes into a politically active organization and the multitudes of both tactics that they employ as well as the hurdles that are faced from a minority perspective. He was successful in my opinion, based on the response and positive notoriety that the book obtained post its release in 2001. As put by the journalistic review of Guadalupe’s book by Jose Alamillo that the book, "contributes significantly to the history of Chicano movement and school desegregation in the American West" (ALAMILLO 221). The book was appropriately praised by journalistic reviews, but I further believe it was a success in its efforts to inform readers mainly because of its integration in scholastic learning of the history of Texas. In order for a book to achieve such a lofty height it must endure rigorous scrutiny before it would be accepted.

In assert that the decision by Guadlupe to organize the book into chronologically ordered thematic chapters hindered readers in understanding the full scope of the ideas that were being conveyed. The book was criticized by Barbara Shircliffe that, while the book contributes greatly to the understanding of the Chicano movement and its influence on local school activism, it failed to adequately explain the racial prejudices between the Black American and Mexican American communities during that time. She wrote, “The role racial prejudice Mexican Americans harbored toward African Americans is only briefly touched on in this analysis, though San Miguel notes Mexican-American leaders publicly denounced prejudice as a motive for the protests. African-American educators and leaders remained suspicious of Mexican-American's motives for the school boycotts” succinctly capturing the shortcomings of the manner in which the book was written (SHIRCLIFFE 606).

**Citations**

SHIRCLIFFE. Shircliffe, Barbara J., and Guadalupe San Miguel. *History of Education Quarterly*, vol. 42, no. 4, 2002, pp. 605–08. *JSTOR*, http://www.jstor.org/stable/3218098. Accessed 29 Apr. 2024.

ALAMILLO. Alamillo, José M., and Guadalupe San Miguel. *Western Historical Quarterly*, vol. 33, no. 2, 2002, pp. 220–21. *JSTOR*, https://doi.org/10.2307/4144811. Accessed 29 Apr. 2024.

SAN. Brown, Not White: School Integration and the Chicano Movement in Houston, by Guadalupe San Miguel. Edited by Tatcho Mindiola, #3 University of Houston Series in Mexican American Studies, 2001.