

Research Outline

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Topic

Questions of agency raised by Chicano Literature

Tentative thesis statement

How does chicano literature, in particular *The Book of Unknown Americans* approach the question of agency/freewill[1]?

Intro

Introduce topic, and primary text (TBUA)

Guilt as a manifestation of agency in TBUA

This will mostly drive from TBUA and the Schmid paper. [2]

American ideas of Jeffersonian Individualism and Masculinity contrasting with Women.

Also driving from TBUA and both resources, may split into two sections. Driven by [3] [2]

Adolescence as a proving grounds for agency

Certainly TBUA and Zavala[3]

Vehicles in TBUA

Will probably need a few sources for this

Closing

References

- [1] Cristina Henriquez. *The book of unknown Americans*. Knopf Publishing Group, Aug. 2014.
- [2] Michael Schmid. “Depiction of identity and agency in selected works of Chicana literature”. PhD thesis. 2016. URL: <https://unipub.uni-graz.at/obvugrhs/content/titleinfo/1349394> (visited on 05/12/2025).
- [3] Noel Zavala. *Adolescent time: Adolescence and the formation of Chicano literature*. Illinois.edu, Apr. 2018. URL: <https://www.ideals.illinois.edu/items/107423> (visited on 05/12/2025).