

**From:** Ponce, Alejandra  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 15, 2019 11:04 AM  
**To:** Ethnic Studies  
**Subject:** My love for Ethnic Studies

Hello, my name is Alejandra Ponce and I am now a senior at Santa Ana High School. I took Ethnic Studies during my sophomore year and am currently taking it again. I couldn't get enough of it, it has helped me more than any other class throughout my educational career has. Being a Chicana in this time period is not easy and for as long as I can remember I always knew that because I was not white I would not be treated the same. Because of that realization at such a young age, I hated my culture. I hated being a brown girl with curly hair. No one in pop culture looked like me. There was no representation of my people in my class curriculums. It wasn't until I took ethnic studies where I finally felt like I could be a somebody. I learned about all the leaders and scholars who were left out of our textbooks just because they were minorities. I learned about the oppressive history our country has on people who are seen as different. More students need to take Ethnic Studies because it opens their eyes to what the world actually is. The system is set up to keep us down but if we become educated, we will not only become better students but better people and the world needs more of that. Thank you for taking the time for reading my story. I am not the only one who has these realizations. I am just one of the ones who have the privilege of taking this course.

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