

## America's borderline

This great nation I call home taught me I'm on the borderline  
Born in the land of the brave,  
home of the free

As a US citizen I'm born into greatness at the center of our founding fathers' creation  
As a Mexican-American, Latina, Hispanic, Chicana person of color through which lens you see me; I may  
not be American enough for some, I'm on the borderline

This great nation I call home taught me, the pledge of Allegiance, National anthem; "Star Spangled  
Banner", & America the Beautiful  
as a US Citizen I am free, I am worthy, I am enough  
Through which lens you see me I am a hearing person and capable  
Through which lens you see me and learn I'm hard of hearing  
Suddenly I'm disabled and incapable I'm on the borderline & not enough

In this great nation I call home I was taught this is  
The land of the brave, home of the free, taught me, I have freedom of speech,  
I am free  
I am equal  
I was taught as a citizen of the United States of America I have rights and liberty  
Through which lens you see me,  
I have those freedoms  
Through which lens you see me and see a woman you may perceive me in a particular mold and role.  
Through which lens you see me  
I maybe light  
I maybe dark  
I maybe on the borderline & some will try and strip me of my rights & dignity  
or I maybe among those in the core center  
It's this tug-a-war, I'm not from here, I'm not from there, I'm on the borderline  
I was taught about our founding fathers  
I was briefly taught about the Alamo  
I was taught about Columbus  
I was taught about all the greatness of our nation per someone long ago before any of us were even  
born deemed that was truth and the way  
Nobody taught me that this land was already ours it belonged to the natives of this land  
It belonged to all the indigenous people of this land  
It is stolen land  
Robbed culture  
Robbed language  
Blood shed  
And graves upon graves dug and buried  
History was buried too  
The United States was formed, and systems put in places those very systems embedded in modern day  
so engraved in the land that through which lens you see, you won't see it  
Modern day people didn't create it  
Modern day people couldn't control what happened or change what was done, they weren't there

Modern day people CAN change the very systems that continue to exist today creating unnecessary barriers and borderlines

We the people of the United States of America can dismantle the system that keeps our nation divided  
America can create a new system to bring peace, dignity, freedom, & justice for all from sea to shining sea!

America can learn from its history

If we teach it,

it's history

If we teach it, it's history it won't repeat it

It will heal and it will prosper from sea to shining sea!

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Here is the writing piece I wrote after coming back from TX from my grandmother's funeral. With all the diversity trainings and advocacy work I have been doing personally and professional as well as living here for 30 years and having spending almost two weeks in my birth town just a few miles north of the Mx boarder in McAllen TX, it was heavy on my heart, and I was inspired to write this piece. I used to write frequently as a young girl & wrote often until I got married and had kids.