Key Words: undocumented, immigration, jobs, broke, return to family


Topic: Struggles for Mexican Americans during the Recession

• The recession made Rogelio feel very displeased. It made him believe that there was no such thing as an American Dream anymore. The González Brother’s was a band that Arnulfo and his two brothers created after the recession hit. They all lost their construction jobs. Out of their entire family, only two have jobs still and they don’t even work times a week most of the time. It’s hard to get used to bringing $110 a day from construction to bringing home whatever they get in band gigs, which have also dropped by a dramatic 50%. (Sanchis 53).

• The González brothers were apart of 12 million other undocumented workers that had been unemployed that were said to have lived in the United States. This has resulted in remarkable decrease in immigration from Mexico to the United States. Not only are less leaving Mexico, but less are also returning back to Mexico. The Mexican-Americans with “less than a high school degree are over-represented in construction.” (Sanchis 54).

• Most of the immigrant waited for hours throughout the day for work in freezing cold weather and nothing came, but they continually waited day by day. When they did get a job, they made just enough to live in the United States. If they were to go back home they would “shut up in the house and [be] broke” as Julio Vardales stated. (Sanchis 57). It
would have definitely been harder for the Mexicans to leave the United States to go back home to their families in Mexico. (Sanchis 57).

Assessment:

The strength of Sanchis’s article was that it had actual evidence from a man himself that went through the recession. He told his story and his side of the recession. I feel that showing a personal experience really proves that people did struggle and their families also got hit hard once the workers started losing their jobs. A weakness that this article had was that it only told the story of one family. I think if it told the story of various families, it could have been better for the readers to understand that not just the White people got hurt with the recession, but the Mexicans as well.

This article connected with my theme of recession and how it affected Mexican Americans. It talks about how most Mexican Americans barely made enough money to live in the United States during the recession. One of the guys also stated that he would rather stay in the United States and have money than to go back home to Mexico and be broke.