

# To Be Or Not To Be Hispanic

## Quotations

“Each individual has their own way of identifying themselves. [T]here are 60 million versions of what it means to be Hispanic / Latino in the United States.”

“Spanish is part of the American identity, it is an American language.”

“1 in 5 Medal of Honor recipients have been immigrants.”

“I never questioned [my American] identity, to be honest. Having been born here, having been raised here; I am really proud of it.

“I don ´t think I really fully appreciated my ‘American’ identity, until the first time I visited Europe. [...] And I had a little test for myself, I wanted to see how long I could go, without missing something about the U.S. My test was the ‘Hamburger Test.’ After spending 3 weeks [in Spain], I finally broke down. [...] We walked past a Burger King and I said, ‘I have to have a hamburger.’”

## Vocabulary

Source: Merriam Webster online dictionary [www.merriam-webster.com](http://www.merriam-webster.com)

### General Vocabulary

**Anchor Baby (noun):** a baby who is born in a country that gives all babies born there the right of citizenship, but whose parents are not citizens and do not have the right to live there (Cambridge Dictionary)

**bilingualism (noun):** the ability to speak two languages

**civil society; also civilization (noun):** a relatively high level of cultural and technological development

**cognizant (adjective):** knowledgeable of something especially through personal experience (also: mindful)

**Cub Scouts (noun):** a member of the scouting program of the Boy Scouts for boys in the first through fifth grades in school

**cultural intricacies; intricate (adjective):** having many complexly interrelating parts or elements

**delicacy (noun):** something pleasing to eat that is considered rare or luxurious

**derogatory (adjective):** expressive of a low opinion (E.g. a derogatory term)

**diluted (adjective):** weakened or thinned by or as if by having been mixed with something else (such as water)

**dissuade (verb):** to advise (a person) against something

**diversity (noun):** the condition of having or being composed of differing elements.

**fortified (adjective):** made stronger or more secure (E.g. a fortified city)

**Hispanophobia; phobia (noun):** an exaggerated usually inexplicable and illogical fear of a particular object, class of objects, or situation

**influx (noun):** a coming in (E.g. an influx of tourists)

**Medal of Honor (noun phrase):** a U.S. military decoration awarded in the name of the Congress for conspicuous intrepidity at the risk of life in action with an enemy.

**persuasion (noun):** an opinion held with complete assurance (E.g. Religious persuasion)

**pinto bean (noun):** a mottled kidney bean that is grown for food and for stock feed;  
mottled (adjective): marked with spots of different color.

**reserve (noun):** something reserved or set aside for a particular purpose, use, or reason

**stigma (noun):** a mark of shame or discredit

## Discussion Questions

- 1) What is your perception of world-wide migration over the last decade as compared to the 2-3 decades prior. Has it increased?
- 2) Has the media coverage over the past years changed the public perception of immigration to the US?
- 3) Should certain “loop holes” in US immigration policy be fixed to prevent system abuse?
- 4) Is illegal immigration a crime that should be punished or an offense that should not be persecuted at all?
- 5) Are you in favor of defensive measures being implemented/ extended at the border (for example at the southern border wall)? How efficient can these measures be in preventing people from immigrating illegally or importing illegal goods?