

Adrianna DeCicco

Honors Component Proposal: La Comunidad de Lawrence

During the semester, the class is learning about communities, the meaning and boundaries of communities and what makes a community. For my project, I am going to study the community and city of Lawrence, Massachusetts. I will see and study different aspects of Lawrence. The majority of people from Lawrence are Latino/a so this community pertains to the Advanced Studies course. I will be learning about a neighboring city filled with Spanish-speaking people.

This Component goes beyond the regular course syllabus because it satisfies the active learning pedagogical goal of the Honors Program. Throughout the semester, I will be attending at least 3 different events in Lawrence. With the help of Professor Saenz de Viguera Erkiaga, we picked out certain events to attend to help educate me about Lawrence and the community. Besides community events, I will also attend the Boys' and Girls' Club and local restaurants. This will allow me to learn about the important aspects of the Lawrence community, such as the children, food and home life.

As of now, we have four community events in mind. I will be attending a lecture on February 25th. It is about Lawrence's history as an immigrant city. Dr. Farrant from UMASS Lowell will be lecturing. Another possible event is an information session about becoming a citizen. This takes place on March 8th at 6pm and I still need to be approved by the city in order to attend. Another event that we have chosen is the Arlington Breakfast Club (ABC). This is a neighborhood breakfast in Lawrence. This will be April 9th. This will allow me to intermingle with people from Lawrence. The final event that we have chosen is Earth Day on April 30th. I will go into Lawrence, celebrate with their community and offer help to improve their city. Local restaurants that I will eat at include Pollo Tipico, Pollo Centro and El Taller.

After each event I will write a 100-word report about the events I attend in order to track my progress. The reports will include basic information about each event and an overall reflection about the event. It will include what I learned and any important facts or ideas. At the end of the semester, I will create a presentation and present it to my class.

The event reports will be the basis of the presentation and the presentation will also include information about the community as a whole. I will research the basic demographics and the community's physical and symbolic boundaries and include that as well. The presentation will be given in Spanish. Professor Saenz de Viguera Erkiaga will grade each report and my final presentation to the class. He will also give me credit for attending the events throughout the semester and the amount of research that I do for the project. The grade will count towards my participation grade which is 15% of my overall grade.