ABSTRACT

GRACE TAYLOR. Exploring Latinx Student Identity and Self-Efficacy through Visual Rhetoric and Graphic Novels.

(Under the direction of Professor Helen J. Burgess.)

With the “rhetoric of lack” surrounding the Latinx student population, visual rhetoric and graphic novels can serve as an opportunity for teachers to engage and learn more about this student population’s identity both culturally and as writers. Through the study of graphic novels with themes focused on identity, this curriculum proposal offers Latinx students the chance to explore their writing process through a rhetorical lens. At the same time, the assignment of an autobiographical comic will potentially allow Latinx students the opportunity to incorporate the two spaces of their home life and school life which combined help shape their overall identity. This final project can in turn break down assumptions and potential cultural and communication barriers between students and teachers.