

Ana Paola Ruiz

WLC 300

### Personal Statement

“I am Mexican, of course I know Spanish: how to speak it, read it and write it,” I used to say when before I enrolled on my first Spanish course. I believed that just by being Mexican and speaking the language at home I knew my language; that was not true. I would hear my sister come home excited to share with us what she learned about our language. I would always ask, “Why do you want to major in something you already know?” Little did I know I will be majoring in Spanish. Unfortunately, my sister did not make an impact in order for me to be interested, but she did push me to enroll in a Spanish class and to be proud of speaking this amazing, rich language.

My first Spanish classes were in a Community College. I took three Spanish classes the two years I attended Hartnell in the Fall of 2014, the community college in my hometown Salinas. My First Spanish class was during summer after that course I began to feel passionate about Spanish thanks to my first Spanish professor in Hartnell, Ms. Vacaflor. Learning for the first time the history as well as the grammar of Spanish impacted me more and made me realize I knew almost nothing about my language. I realized I didn't know how to write Spanish, especially the accents. I took most of the levels of Spanish that Hartnell offered; in addition to my general education classes. I graduated Hartnell in the Fall 2016 with a Certificate of Achievement due to the completion of the CSU General Education Breadth

Coming to CSUMB I knew I wanted to major in Spanish; however, I thought to myself, “What else is there to learn about the language?” I had no idea how much more I would learn through the courses offered here. Dr. Zielina taught me much more about the literature part of

Spanish and all the amazing literature pieces that make Spanish rich and wonderful. With Dr. Gómez, I learned about the culture and civilization of Latin-america.

Being Mexican and also considering myself as Latina I have learned to appreciate my language and other languages around me. Also, I have learned so much more than I ever thought I would learn here at CSUMB and I thank my professors for that and my sister who somehow planned a seed and curiosity about the Spanish language. I am looking forward to learn more about the Spanish language and to apply to my future career.