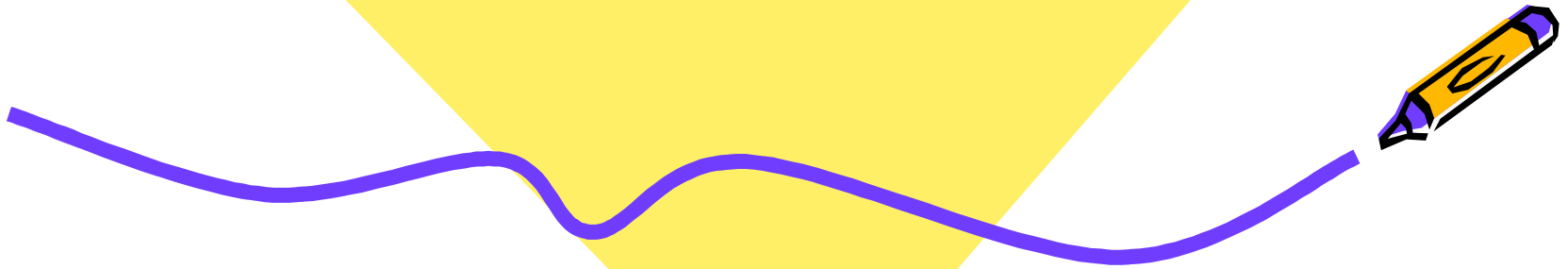
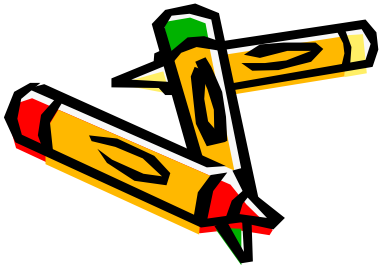
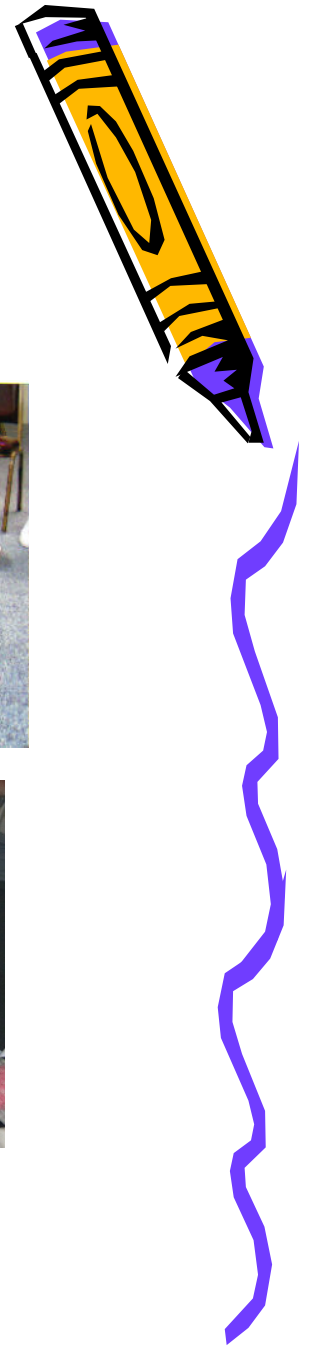




# Immigrant Children's Cultural Challenges

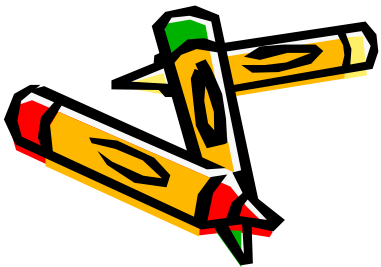


# Immigrant children face a wide range of issues...



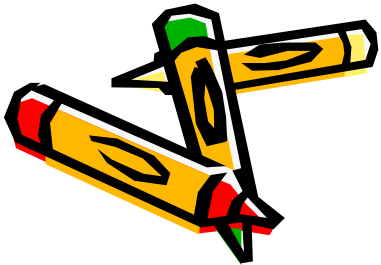
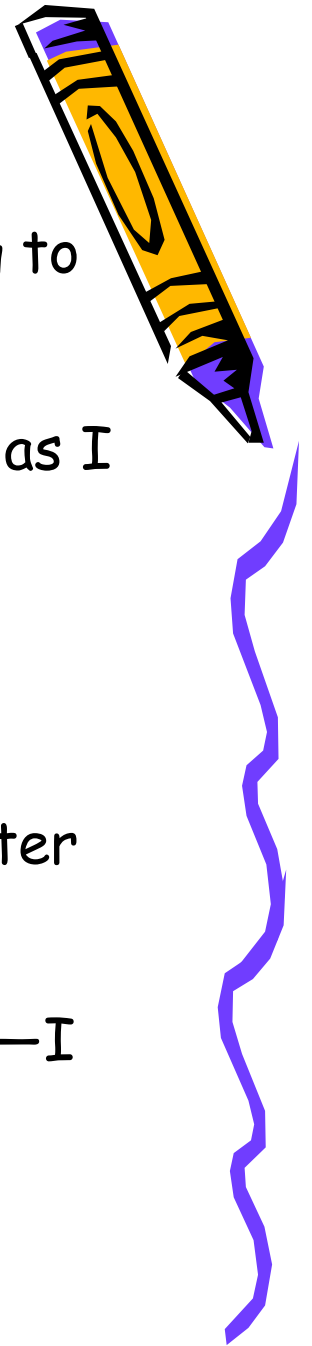
# The English Language

- My parent's don't understand English so I need to translate everything.
- Since I need to translate for my parents, I need to miss school to go with them to appointments.
- Even though I can speak a little English, I never do well in school.
- Kids make fun of me because I have an accent and I don't understand everything they say.



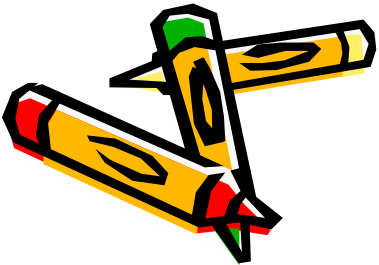
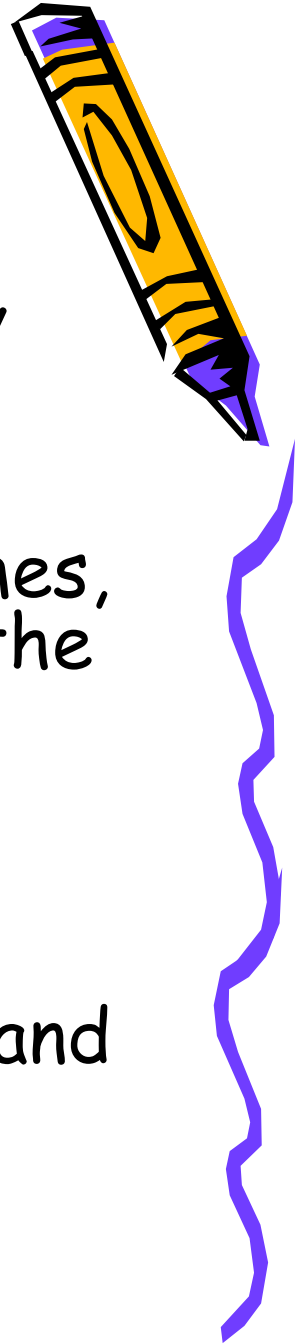
# Education

- My parents have limited education, so who is going to help me with my homework?
- School is a lower priority, I need to work as soon as I am old enough to help my family.
- There are 12 people living in my two bedroom apartment—I don't have a place to study.
- I have to take care of my brothers and sisters after school, I don't have time for homework.
- My parents put too much pressure on me to study—I can't even have a life!



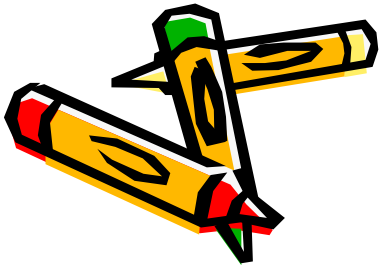
# Peer Pressure

- I don't want to lose my cultural identity but I want to be an American too.
- My friends expect me to play video games, chat on the computer, and hang out at the mall but my parents expect me to be working all the time.
- I never invite my friends to my home because it is too different than theirs and I would be embarrassed.



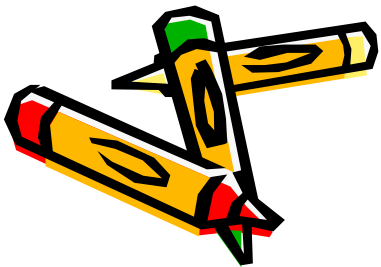
# Domestic Violence

- "Everybody's" parents get into physical fights...that's just the way it is.
- If I tell anyone about abuse in my home I will get taken away, or worse, my parents will get taken away and sent back to our country.
- I can't tell anyone about abuse in my home, we don't talk about things like that in my culture.
- Even though I know domestic violence is against the law, I can't tell my parents this—it's disrespectful.



# Fear of Authority...Especially the Police

- The police in my country are corrupt so everyone knows you avoid policemen as much as possible.
- I don't understand Americans, they talk back to their teachers, their doctors, the police, and others in authority. This isn't done in my country.
- My parents won't stick up for me at school. My mom says that fair or not, whatever the teacher says goes.



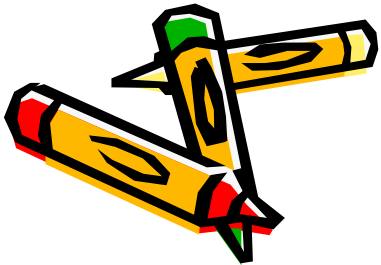
# Social Expectations

- If I do well, people will think I am trying to be better than everyone else.
- If I do poorly, I will shame my family.
- If I act like an American, my friends and family will make fun of me.
- I don't feel like I belong anywhere. In Mexico I'm "the American" and in the US, I'm "the Mexican".



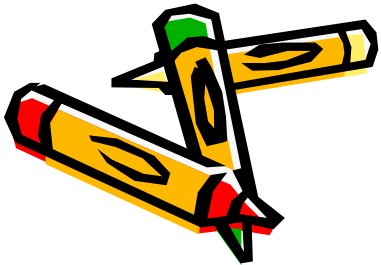
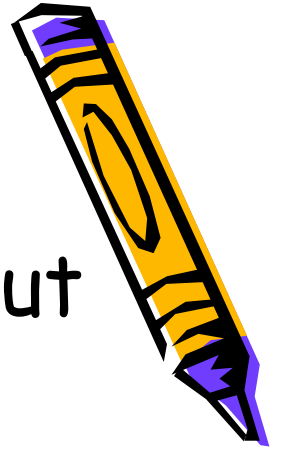
# Social Expectations

- If I stick strictly to my culture I will never fit in with my American friends.
- If I am a strong woman with a good education and good job, men will be intimidated and I will never get married.
- If I want to do anything outside of the cultural norm, everyone will gossip about me—and I will never hear the end of it from my mother.



# Healthcare

- My brother can go to the doctor but I can't because I am not a citizen.
- I can't tell my parent that I have a medical problem—they can't afford to take me to the doctor.
- My parent's don't know how to access healthcare for themselves or me.



# Financial Problems

- I can't play sports, go to the movies, or have a computer because my parents barely make minimum wage and they have to support our family of 8 people.
- When I work, the money I make is for my family, not for me.
- We sometimes run out of food by the end of the month and we rarely turn on the heat because it is expensive.
- Money is always tight because my dad's work is seasonal. Sometimes his employer won't even pay him what he is owed.



# Their Culture

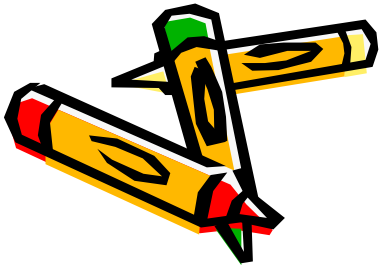


- I can't leave the house without looking my best because it would be an embarrassment to my family.
- My father said I will be marrying a boy I don't even know in a few year—I don't really want to but that is just how it is.
- We never have money to do anything fun because any extra money gets sent back to my relatives in our home country.



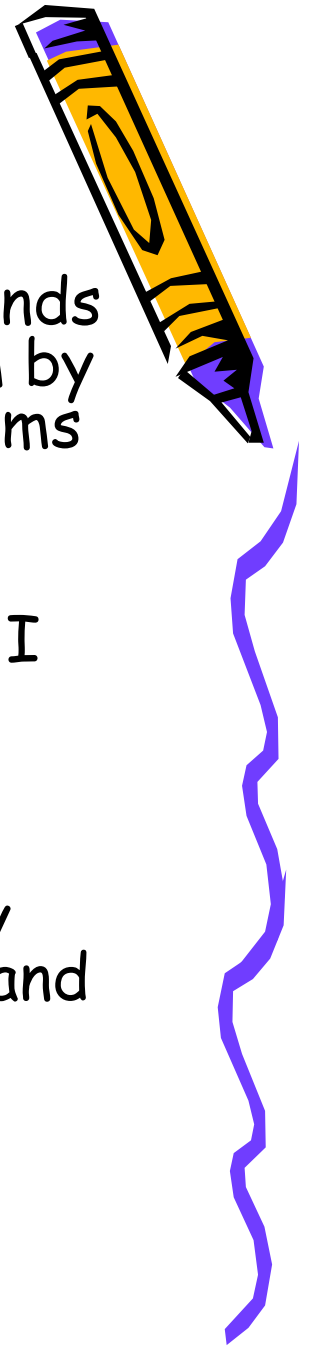
# American Culture

- I don't understand why American kids talk back to their parents, why they are ungrateful for everything their parents provide them, and how they can go on dates when they are 12!
- My parents don't understand American culture so I can't sleep over at my friend's house, go to my friend's birthday parties, or leave my house without all of my brothers and sisters going with me. In my culture, social activities are done as a family.



# Religious Beliefs

- Because I am Muslim, I can't eat what my friends eat and I have to dress differently than them by wearing a head scarf as well as covering my arms and legs.
- Sometimes people call me a terrorist because I am Muslim. People don't even understand my religion but they persecute me because of it.
- There are very few people here who are of my religion so it is hard to keep up our practices and traditions while still getting to be a regular teenager.

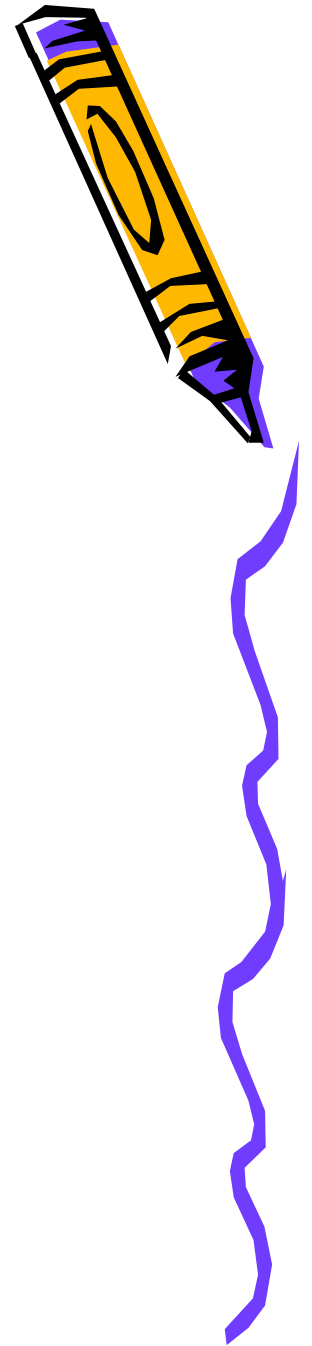


# Immigration

- Even though I was born in America and I'm a citizen, my parents are here illegally.
- One day my parents could just be picked up by ICE and deported and I will not know how to find them.
- My parents want to sponsor my older brother to come to America but the wait is almost 20 years.



While these are all challenges that immigrant children face, they are also issues that need to be addressed by the entire community.



# Questions

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