

Miranda Villanueva



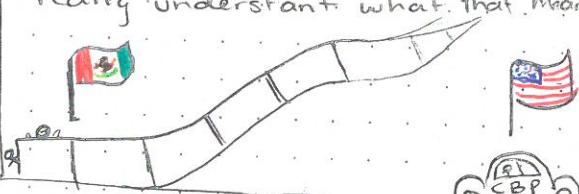
As a child, I lived a very carefree life. I spent my days sliding down a dirt hill next to my house.



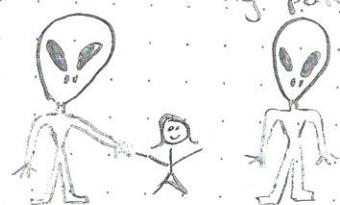
I was blissfully ignorant of the world around me & of the implication of where I lived



I knew my parents were IMMIGRANTS, but I didn't really understand what that meant



I had not been exposed to the term "illegal aliens" nor did I realize that my parents were considered such.



I couldn't understand that we were living in a country that did not want us. I especially did not understand that my parents could not participate in the activities citizens of los Estados Unidos could.

family

Mami, por que no votan ustedes?



No podemos



I never questioned it... I didn't understand it, but I never questioned it.



No tenemos papeles



911

shouldn't come as a surprise then that I had no exposure to terms like democracy, republican, democrat, or electoral ballot. My parents were not allowed to participate in these privilege therefore my young mind had not interest in trying to understand them. These concepts were as foreign to me as my parents' home country.



My earliest memories of an exposure to a tangible idea of democracy came from a Nickelodeon series aired during an election year.

S.V.T.V. NICKELODEON

Election Connection

"Election Connection" was my gateway into the U.S. government system.



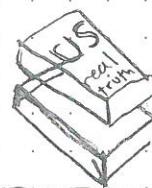
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young mind took these simplified, and idealistic explanations as truths so I embraced them.



They remained my truths until I reached high school and encountered courses like AP US history and AP Government

It was then that I came to the realization that I really did not have an accurate or complete understanding of the US government system. I virtually had no understanding of these concepts until high school.



as I sit here re-watching those Nickelodeon videos, I realize how misguided & untrue they are



Not Okay

When a country's a democracy the ppl get to vote who their leaders will be cuz it's democracy in the USA

run by you and me. We get what we want cuz it's democracy. So that's good

I was lied to as a child. Trained to believe this country had an ideal system of governing, that people had the power and that all was fair. The younger me did not realize how far from the truth those statements were.

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she did not realize she was being indoctrinated. To believe the country of her birth was as great as it claimed to be.

Thirteen years later,
she knows it is a lie.
It was all a lie.

This country is not what it claims,
it discriminates against other human
beings.

It mistreats children. It denies people their rights.
We do NOT choose a president based on the majority.
Democracy is not run by you & me. Democracy is a lie.

