

Samantha Rivera  
Journal entry

June 08

The highlight of my day to day was going to the White House at night with the group. The funny thing about that day was getting lost and getting caught in the rain which was a lesson learned for all of us to all ways carry an umbrella. We called it a night when found our way back to the dorm after about 2 hours of walking in the wrong direction.



June 09

Today is my first real morning in Washington. I still feel as if I am in a dream and what better place to take pictures than at the



weekend markets. The markets are different in Washington than those I am used to in Texas. At home they do not have a lot of handmade crafts like paintings and wood working. This was really a highlight. The interns come from various parts of the country DC is really different especially the climate.



It reminds me of home, but for my friends from Oregon this is a new climate that they are learning to adjust to. One of the many things my roommate and I have in common, is our love for books, so we found a bookstore in the market and we just had to capture the moment..



June 11

Today we participated in an event where we all share an interest- immigration reform. We marched to the House offices with the United Farm Workers (UFW) president Arturo Rodriguez and other community activists from across the country.



People were willing to speak up but also get arrested for this cause. A 12 year old boy was one of those arrested.

What shocked me about the protest was that members of congress actually lock their doors, so that the people could not get inside and share their opinions. Instead we were forced to write our views on the back of a

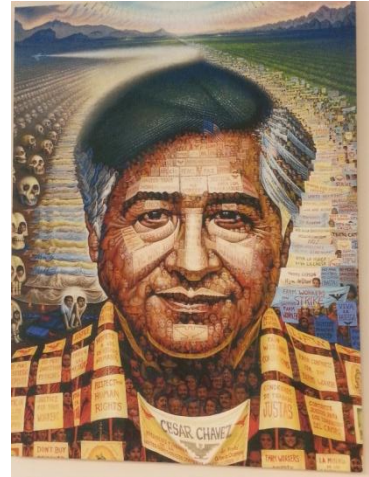
photograph of a family that had been separated due to a deportation.



June 12



It has been the best day ever getting to visit everyone's office and who they would be working with. The staff at Congressman Hinojosa's office was very welcoming I am so excited for work on



Monday. I look forward to working with the congressman and his staff. Nothing like a Texas welcome to make you feel right at home. There are 5 other interns all from the valley. One of the interns goes to UT Pan Am. We had never met until we met in DC. Another intern went to my high school and has the same love for his roots as me which is awesome.



I am not going to lie. Initially, I was shy and scared. I thought I was going to the outcast, and that my time in DC was not going to be fun, but after receiving my welcome, I can say that all those fears have gone away. Now I feel that I am a strong woman ready to take this opportunity to make a difference in people's lives and share what I have learned to help my community.

I know this is only the beginning, and there are still a lot of unknowns that I will encounter along my journey here but for now, I will follow the words of Edward R. Murrow "Difficulty is the excuse history never accepts."

