



Remembering Refuge

Between Sanctuary and Solidarity

What are Provocations?

Provocations are the questions that lie at the heart of conversations about migration and borders, but that often are not made explicit. The provocations emerged from the overarching themes that developed out of the team's engagement with the oral histories. They are points of entry that both inform and are informed by the oral histories and are meant to provoke critical thinking and engagement.

Provocation:

What are the relationships between borders in North America?

Borders are often viewed as fixed lines between nations; however, in reality, they are influenced by the histories of colonization, trade, migration, and security. This provocation encourages you to reflect on the types of relationships and networks that exist or have emerged across borders.

- To what extent and in what ways are the borders of North America connected?
- What can we learn from examining them together?
- How do laws and policies work together across the continent to shape migratory histories?
- How do solidarity and sanctuary networks span and persist across borders?



From the Remembering Refuge Archive

At rememberingrefuge.com/oral-histories, you can explore a collection of oral histories where individuals share their experiences of crossing the Canada-US border to seek refuge, along with accounts from advocates in border communities. The following excerpts have been chosen for their relevance to the provocation “What are the relationships between borders in North America?” and can be used to reflect on the questions it raises.

Key moments from the oral histories:

Antonio - Text only, Chapter 6 Departures Part II: “Am I dreaming or is this real?”

Janet 00:18:30 - 00:25:51

Roberto 00:45:44 - 00:50:30

Angela 00:56:03 - 00:57:09

To access the key moments, follow the steps listed below:

1. Go to rememberingrefuge.com
2. Go to “Oral histories”.
3. Scroll to find the oral history you’re looking for, and click on it.
 - a. Note: Some oral histories may include a trigger warning. Click the play button to continue.
4. Inside the story, click “Explore X’s story” located at the top of the page to view a list of Key Moments from the oral history.
 - a. Note: Antonio’s oral history does not have this feature. To explore their story, scroll horizontally through the chapters to find the one you’re looking for, then click on it. Inside the chapter, you can access the transcript and Key Moments.
5. Scroll through the Key Moments to find the timestamp you’re looking for and click on it. This will take you to that moment in the audio.
6. To play the story, click on the play button in the bottom-left corner of the page.

Education Resources

At rememberingrefuge.com/education, you can find education resources designed to activate the counter-archive by encouraging learners to engage with the stories meaningfully and consider how the knowledge can be applied beyond the classroom. The following materials were selected for their relevance to the provocation “What are the relationships between borders in North America?” and can be used to reflect on the questions it raises.

Education Resources:
Push & Pull Factors
Categorization and Migration

To access the education resources, follow the steps listed below:

1. Go to rememberingrefuge.com
2. Go to “Education”.
3. Scroll to find the education resource you’re looking for, and click on it.
4. Once inside you can view the online version or download the PDF.



What have other people said about this question?

Maria Cristina Garcia, *Canada: A Northern Refuge for Central Americans*, 2006
<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/canada-northern-refuge-central-americans>

Luann Good Gingrich and Julie Young, *The NAFTA border's dispossessions*, 2019
<https://www.societyandspace.org/articles/the-nafta-borders-dispossessions>

Todd Miller, *Empire of Borders excerpt*, 2019
<https://www.tucsonweekly.com/tucson/empire-of-borders/Content?oid=26230690>

Want to learn more about the project? Visit rememberingrefuge.com