

I AM FROM...

This past week, we have been uncovering what it means to be linguistically and culturally unique. Now, based off what you have learned, *express who you are* based on “where you are from”. This idea may mean where you are from literally, or where you are from in terms of your beliefs, attitudes, personality, etc. This will be a building block for your writing portfolio and for our next assignment, a definition essay.

Directions: Read the following sample poems. Note the specific structure and elements in the spaces provided. Then, on the following page, write a draft of your own “I Am From” poem to reflect who you are and how you define yourself.

Where I'm From

by Roberto Alba

I am from a picture of my grandpa, my dad and me
a picture of my dog Nico
and dream catchers that remind me of my Native
American heritage.

I am from the pear tree my family shares with our
neighbors
the chimney swifts that come at night
and the gunshots that make me nervous.

I am from my mom and dad who care for and love me
my two older sisters who love me too
and my baby sister who slobbers on me.

I am from “¡Adiós!” and “Go to bed, Roberto!”

I am from my Native American grandma's meatloaf
and my tía's green candy tamales.

I am from my mom who's proud to be Native American,
Mexican, and Italian
my dad who is Mexican American
and my grandma who is Mexican too.

I am from my sister's fun *quinceañera*
from wearing my fancy clothes and dancing slow
I am from getting blessed by the Eagle feather
the sound of drums
and dancing in circles.

I am Roberto
I have many different cultures
I like to help people
I am a peacemaker.

I am from many places
I am Roberto.

Where I'm From

by Camila Calderon

I am from my pink baby blanket
from my *abuela's* picture
and my stuffed bear Lucesito.

Yo soy del árbol sombrero
from quiet friends playing on the swings
and a gunshot in the night.

I am from my mom who comes from México and loves
to dance
from my daddy who comes from México and plays
soccer with us
and from my grandma who lives in México and who I
miss.

I am from “Cami” “Pollito” and “Gordito.”

I am from *pasole con pollo*
ensalada y rábanos
y tacos dorados con pollo, tomates, crema y queso.

I am from my mom and daddy who are proud to be
from México
and my grandma who is from beautiful México.

I am from *el Día de los Muertos*
when my family eats special food
and we celebrate my grandpa's life.

I am Camila.
I am kind
respectful
and friendly.

I am from many places
I am Camila.

Poem Analysis

Stanza Number	Necessary Elements	Your ideas for your poem
1	Specific yet ordinary items	
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		

What message do you hope to convey to your readers?

I Am From Poem

Objective: Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.