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## Why Courageous Cuentos?

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# Why Courageous Cuentos?

*“Courageous Cuentos is a safe place to create your own history. It lets you know that your story is important, and meant to be remembered. Here you are accepted, and you get to be a part of the change, be a part of speaking up about what you believe. It is important to me and the school, because it is an eyeopener for many about abundant social issues in our lives. Create the community you want, and it starts here.*

*-Emely Almader*

*“Courageous Cuentos is crucial to the legitimacy of our stories. We, as marginalized peoples, seldom get to write our own history. Each story from Courageous Cuentos is a moment of resilience in our collective decolonial histories. Courageous Cuentos gives hope whose stories go untold and voices go unheard. We are in a perpetual struggle of truth and expression, these cuentos are the rich and true stories of our families, of our people. Courageous Cuentos gives power and agency to people who refuse to be left in the margins of history and we pay our respects to these people who lift up the voices of others” .*

*-Armando Peña*

*“Courageous Cuentos continues to be an outlet and safe space for our narratives that are underrepresented. It’s important to promote our narratives especially in these days when marginalized communities continue being marginalized more than ever. It is important to HSU because it encompasses our values of community and solidarity within our community. “*

*-Rafael Dominguez*

*“Courageous Cuentos has become an important space for many voices that are often left out in institutions like Humboldt State University. We now have the honor to also be including other voices from the community that also face challenges of being heard. This has become a part of the HSU community as well as the community around it. “*

*-Eibar Romero*

*“Courageous Cuentos is where you can connect and relate to the stories written. It is a space where you can feel connected to someone or something beyond yourself. For me, it reminds me that I am not alone, that we are all here experiencing the same things. More importantly, it is a space where you can share your voice, thoughts, and emotions with no judgment.”*

*-Victoria Ramirez*

*"Courageous Cuentos provides a space that allows us to embrace what others might want us to hide. Sharing our own experiences through this journal and the surrounding community can be a source of a therapeutic, if not essential, way of expressing ourselves and validating ourselves and others. In a society where self-love and deviating from the dominant norm is frowned upon, celebrating and accepting ourselves and others is a powerful, radical act."*

*-Ariel Stelljes*

*"Writing is a way of processing, healing, and teaching. Courageous Cuentos provides a space for students to share our experiences with our communities both at HSU and our homes. It is incredible to see all of the creative pieces that have come out of these classes, and be a part of this volume!"*

*-Theresa Lopez*

*"It is essential for a people to record their experiences throughout history in order to develop a collective memory of the past. A community with no memory has no guidance from their ancestors, or an accurate critique of their reality. It is impossible to understand the present without knowledge of what made the present. Courageous Cuentos is a community's self-righteous act of self-perseverance. It is a flex of a people's autonomy to speak their own truth. An act against a white supremacist, capitalist, patriarchy that has terrorized the world for generations."*

*-Jonathan Pena Centes*

*"Courageous Cuentos is important in creating a space for our marginalized stories to be vocalized – there truly is no other journal like it at HSU. There is so much strength and history inked in between the pages of this journal and so much care in binding it all together. "*

*-Yolanda Cesareo Zacarias*