

1969: Born in Mexico

Education: 12 years of education

1987-2000: Worked as an executive secretary in Mexico

June 2000: Immigrated to the U.S.

April 2003: First term of ESOL classes, level A (beginning) all skills

1st interview: (6-03)
-Work: part-time, custodian
-Goals in education: graduate school
-Goals in general: to learn English to be able to talk with child's teachers and get a better job

June 2003: Second term of ESOL classes, level B (high beginning) all skills

September 2003: Third term of ESOL classes, level C (intermediate) all skills

January 2004: Fourth term of ESOL classes, level B (high beginning) all skills

April 2004: Fifth term of ESOL classes, level C (intermediate) all skills

2nd interview: (4-04)
-Work: part-time, custodian
-Goals in education: two-year college degree
-Goals in general: keep her current job; learn English to be able to speak to her child's teacher and help child with homework

3rd interview: (6-05)
-Work: fulltime, custodian at department store
-Goals in education: high school diploma
-Goals in general: communicate better at work

4th interview: (3-06)
-Arcadia discussed her wish to get a job that was more respected than her current custodial job.
-While she is able to use Spanish with family and outside the home (at work and at her child's daycare), learning English better is something important to her. She also expressed being a bit fearful of using English in service encounters such as a bank and discussed her desire to gain more independence (from needing a translator) through a stronger command of English.