

Literacy in the City of El Paso, Texas

[REDACTED]

The University of Texas at El Paso

Comment [U1]: [REDACTED] you improved your draft nicely. I made a few comments below mainly regarding the APA details.

If you have any questions or concerns about what other information to add, let me know.

Dali

Abstract**Comment [U2]:** Nice abstract!

Literacy is the ability to academically excel in reading and writing. Through several tests and studies done by Central Connecticut State University, cities were tested on their overall literacy rates based on several factors. Unfortunately, our city of El Paso has been ranked as one of the least literate cities in the United States. Living on the border of El Paso, Texas and Mexico urges the cross between English and Spanish speakers who have to associate with each other. Speakers learning a second language struggle with proper usage and extensive vocabulary, which accounts for the misleading practice of the English language, thus leaving El Paso illiterate. By reading numerous scholarly articles and websites, research was conducted in order to understand the outcomes an illiterate city has for itself. Elements, such as reading for amusement, have affected how a city functions as a whole. Taking each factor into account, researchers have determined what are some ways to improve the literacy of El Paso. Through several classes and lessons done specifically for the targeted group (people learning English as a second language), the city of El Paso can raise its literacy rate overall.

The ability to read and write may seem like a simple task for any person, however for some cities it may be a privilege to be considered literate. A recent study done by the Central Connecticut State University has informed the United States of the top ten most and least literate cities. The cities ranked were chosen based on containing a population of 250,000 or more and also on “six categories: bookstores, residents’ educational attainment, newspaper circulation, use of online resources, the library system, and periodical publishing resources” (Frohlich & Hess, 2014, [add]). Unfortunately, El Paso has been ranked the fourth least literate cities studied. The study did not focus on “reading test scores, but on reading culture”, where in El Paso the few magazines that are published “had among the lowest circulation rates among large cities, and not one journal had a circulation of at least 500 people in 2013” (Frohlich & Hess, 2014). The impact of a literate city, as stated by Dr. Miller who conducted the study, “Cities that are more successful in terms of business development also have more a more educated population, [and] also have higher income” (Frohlich & Hess, 2014). [add]

Living in a border city (between the United States and Mexico), English and Spanish are constantly exchanged and spoken throughout the town, however, not every person gets the same chance to practice their second language. It is apparent that he Mexican culture intertwines with American standards as “the two cities form one of the largest international U.S.–Mexico border communities. El Paso County is 82% Hispanic, almost 30% of whom are foreign born” (Soto Mas, Mein, Fuentes, Thatcher & Balcázar, 2013). Children who are born in the U.S. get to experience the English speaking culture more frequently than their parents, grandparents or any family member who is not exposed to it daily in school or jobs. As the study in CCSU explained, their study focused on the older generations and how much people chose to read as a culture. Adults who have recently moved to the U.S. however, do not have the advantage of learning a

Comment [U3]: APA requires a comma before the ending quotation mark. The missing comma may be why SafeAssign is tagging this as plagiarized, even if you are citing your sources.

Comment [U4]: In APA, when you use a direct quote or a paraphrase, you must include the page number of the quote. If there is no page number (as it often happens with electronic sources), follow these APA guidelines from Purdue OWL:

When an electronic source lacks page numbers, you should try to include information that will help readers find the passage being cited. When an electronic document has numbered paragraphs, use the abbreviation "para." followed by the paragraph number (Hall, 2001, para. 5). If the paragraphs are not numbered and the document includes headings, provide the appropriate heading and specify the paragraph under that heading. Note that in some electronic sources, like Web pages, people can use the Find function in their browser to locate any passages you cite.

Example:

According to Smith (1997), ... (Mind over Matter section, para. 6).

Comment [U5]: Don't forget to add how your report will inform us better of this problem. What kinds of information will we find in this report?

Comment [U6]: Very nice transition!

new language at an early age. Being illiterate does not only affect ones learning a second language, but it has also been proven to affect health literacy. Soto Mas et al. (2013) explained how Hispanics in border cities are less likely to seek professional opinion for health related issues due to miscommunication between the patient and doctor.

Other reasons people with a native tongue delay learning English properly are thoughts of being **interior** to others. Since English may be a second language for older crowds, adults may be ashamed trying to learn it at an older age. De la Pierda (2010) found that “some parents felt they were not able to directly help their children with homework because of their low levels of formal education” (p. 578). Younger students are able to gain an education, but it is seen that adults can too. It is seen all around colleges, adults are going back to school to receive a degree, and there are many reasons for adults to learn a second language. Soto et al. (2013) quoted “Knowles (1984) [who] highlighted six key principles of adult learning: (1) adults have a need to know why they should learn something; (2) adults tend to be self-directed; (3) adults bring rich, extensive prior knowledge to the learning situation; (4) adults learn better when they themselves perceive the need for learning (rather than the need being defined by an outsider); (5) adults tend to have a more problem-centered (or task-centered) approach to learning, with the goal of application rather than content mastery; and (6) adults are driven by both intrinsic and extrinsic motivators to learn”.

Comment [U7]: Double-check in the dictionary if this is the word you meant to use.

References

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- Soto Mas, F., Mein, E., Fuentes, B., Thatcher, B., & Balcázar, H. (2013). Integrating

Comment [U8]: Although APA does not capitalize each word in titles, names of people, languages, countries, etc. still have to be capitalized,

health literacy and ESL: An interdisciplinary curriculum for hispanic immigrants. Health Promotion Practice, 14, 263-273.