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SL200-04

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Week #2 Reflection

In class we looked at a presentation about how farmers live in Salinas. Many farmers are immigrants as well as California Residents that come to America for a better future for their kids and Families. Many immigrants live in the worst conditions and still have to be able to go to work to earn the minimum wage every day. Most of the farmers live in small labor houses with four to five even more individuals in a whole apartment. They do not have the necessary elements for example water has to be purchased because the water they use cannot be used because of the containment of harsh chemicals that can lead to hair loss. Most of these farmers deserve better than what they are given. My father is a labor worker but his bosses are really nice and we live back in the central valley which has the same amount of farm work, except what they produce here in Salinas is different fruits and vegetables than what we grow in the central valley. Farm labor is hard work, waking up at four of five am to get ready is a hassle. During summer I worked at a packing house for nectarines, peaches, and plums and I hated it. When I would get home my dad would tell me that I should study and go to school because I didn’t want to be packing fruit for the rest of my life. I take what my parents tell me seriously because I know they work hard their whole lives in order for my brothers and I to be who we are.

I feel some bosses take advantage of the fact that the immigrants have no legal papers so they can’t and won’t sue them because of labor abuse. Farm labor here in the Salinas area is very pretty when going down Boronda road with the fields and I give major props to all the farm workers with families that are finding a good path for their families.