

Silencing Resistance

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The following poems contest the places that try to silence and prohibit Ethnic Studies.

I ask them:

What are you afraid of?

Are you afraid of a politicized Raza population?

Are you afraid of people who will no longer stay silent?

Are you afraid of brown bodies having the tools and voice to speak back to power?

Is it fear of the brown conscious bodies?

It seems to me that you only want to prohibit Ethnic Studies where there is a critical mass of students who will become concientizados and politicized. But I ask again: What are you afraid of?

Resisto

**Quieren
y yo resisto.**

**Quieren
prohibir
lo que
veo, toco,
leo, oigo
y siento.**

**Quieren
controlar
lo que sé
lo que
enseño.**

**Quieren
enjaular
mi risa
mi sueño
mi pensar
mi amor
pero
mi alma
resiste.**

Censura

**Me da risa
cuando
piensan
que la censura**

I Resist

**They want
and I resist.**

**They want
to prohibit
what I
see, touch,
read, hear
and feel.**

**They want
to control
what I know
what I
teach.**

**They want to
incarcerate
my laugh
my dream
my thinking
my love
but
my soul
resists.**

Censorship

**I want to
laugh out loud
when
they think**

***pueda
encarcelar
mi pensar
que grita
libertad.***

**that censorship
can keep
my mind
caged up
locked up
silent
and lost
as it screams
freedom.**