

## My Name is Alejandra, and This is My Story

I have two boys. I am a volunteer at the school, and I work hard. I work 7 or 8 hours a day. I make copies, decorate doors, and take children to the bathroom. Sometimes I type for the teachers. I want a paying job but I don't have legal permission to work.



I have a secret. I came to the United States one night. I crossed the river. A man carried me on his shoulders and I paid him.

My real name is not Alejandra.

I have no real job and no money. I cannot leave my husband. He beats me. Sometimes he beats me so hard, he gives me a black eye. But I can't leave. I can't drive. I have no job. I have no family in the United States. So I work in a school as a volunteer. I make copies and decorate walls and doors. I can't go to Mexico and I can't live here like this. What do I do?

# Personal Story: Alejandra's Story

## Learning Tasks:

### 1. Retell Alejandra's Story.

- a. Tell the story in your group (one person writes the story)
- b. Tell the story to a partner – then tell it to the class (the teacher will take notes on the board)
- c. Draw the story using Chalk Talk or Story Boards
- d. Use a graphic to organize the story
- e. Cut the story into paragraphs and scramble them. Then put the paragraphs in order.

### 2. Discuss the positive and negative aspects of Alejandra's life

Positive	Negative

### 3. Consider the Options that Alejandra has. Use words like *might*, *could*, *can*, or phrases like *may-be*, *perhaps*.

## Challenge Activity: Think, Pair, Share

- Consider Alejandra's story and make a suggestions. Begin your sentences with phrases like *I think*  
*Alejandra should .....* *My advice to Alejandra is to .....*  
*If I were Alejandra, I would....*