

HOW TO TAME A WILD TONGUE



Gloria Anzaldua

THE AUTHOR

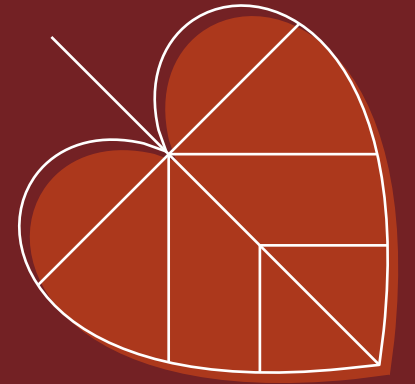
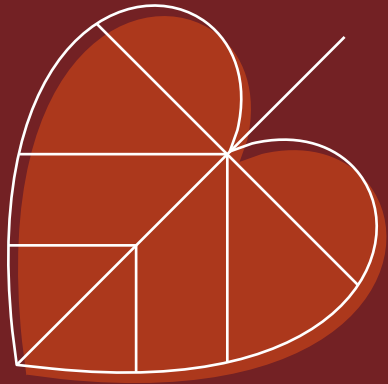
Gloria Anzaldua was born in the Rio Grande Valley of South Texas. She grew up becoming first, a schoolteacher and then a writer for her own personal issues in her lifetime. She writes about Chicana, feminist, and queer issues...



PURPOSE/AUDIENCE

Purpose- In the essay, "How to Tame a Wild Tongue" Anzaldua argues how our identity correlates with our language and how people are made to feel "ashamed" of their language.

Audience- Chicano/Latin communities.
Others who try to "tame" peoples' "tongues"





SECTION ONE – THE DENTIST

In section one of “How to Tame a Wild Tongue” it opens with a dentist being frustrated with Anzaldua as he says, “we’re going to have to do something about that tongue” because he couldn’t continue the procedure with her “wild” tongue getting in the way. She asks herself how can she stop it? She quickly redirects to her own childhood memories, how she was told not to speak her own language even though it doesn’t follow the US first amendment.





SECTION 2 & 3

In section 2 of this essay Anzaldua talks about how she was raised as a little girl, to keep quiet and not talk back. She explains how the Spanish language has words such as "hocicona", "repelona", and "chismosa" that are said often to women but never to a man. Anzaldua wants to break this tradition of male patriarchy in the Spanish language so that girls do not have to "control their tongue".

In section 3 Anzaldua talks about "pocho" - cultural traitor. She goes on to explain how Latina/Latino's would attack her for being a "pocho" because she spoke different versions of Spanish and English.





SECTION 4 & 5

In these two sections in the essay Anzaldua first explains how her native language came to life over the years. She explains how the Chicano language has similarities with the English language due to the “pressure” on Spanish speakers to speak English. She then writes about how Chicanas all have some type of internalized shame for their language, how they are afraid to talk to Latinas because they do not speak the original Spanish language. Anzaldua wants to overcome this “linguistic terrorism”, she does not want to tame her “wild tongue”.





SECTION 6

In this last section of Anzaldua's essay she shares her childhood experiences. She expresses in her writing how excited she would be as a little girl to see her language used in books, music, and films. Anzaldua then goes to explain how Chicanos are a forced group of people because of constant alienation by white dominance. They didn't even know they were their own group of people until 1965. She then wraps up her essay with a powerful message stating that her cultures tongues will never be silenced and they "will remain".





HOW DID I FEEL ABOUT THE ESSAY?

I am Chicana myself. I have very strong feelings towards this essay because I relate to almost everything myself. I have that shame Anzaldua talks about. At first this made me sad, because it is all VERY true, but once I finished reading my mind changed. I felt liberated reading her last sentence, we will remain!