

My family and I work hard for what we want and really don't give up and we don't take things for granted. We love and care for one another and are good people regardless of what people think my culture represents in the US. That being said, growing up as a first generation American is a cool and at times annoying experience. My Dad immigrated to the US in the mid to late 90's from Honduras via foot, train, car, bike etc. He came with his sister Sandra, it took them together roughly 3 ½ months to get here. My Mom immigrated to the US at about the same time my dad did and she came from Colombia with her Mom and Brother via airplane. Growing up for them was fairly different in the sense that my dad and his family didn't really have money and they lived in the country. They were also farmers and they were self dependent. And at the age of 7 he started working in the fields with his dad collecting the full bags of produce and loading them up in the trailer for roughly 8-10 hours a day 7 days a week and when it wasn't harvesting season he'd go around San Pedro sula looking for any and all work to get money to support his family yet his parents were extremely strict with him and raised him right and he shared those lessons with me. My mom grew up completely different from my dad because she came from a wealthy Colombian family that owned a large chain of furniture stores and she didn't have to work until a couple years after she came to America, yet her family was very strict with her and they made sure she grew up to be a very well respected and liked woman which she did grow up to be that. They were both raised fairly strict and in sense "right" which is good because I strongly agree that they raised me to be a smart, well behaved polite young man and I am very grateful for that. Although having immigrant parents isn't always fun at times, for instance not being able to hangout with people like ever and getting spanked for the dumbest things (I don't get spanked anymore) and having to start working at an early age and taking up major responsibilities around the house and family. Although the upsides are with those responsibilities I learned a lot of things. For an average 17 year old, knowing how to drive a truck with 20 foot trailer and knowing how to reverse it is pretty beneficial for the work I do with my dad, they've taught me how to be street smart and not give in to things and to just be as good of a person that you can be because you don't know if you have tomorrow. They've taught me how to defend myself both verbally and physically and how to grow whatever you have and make it better than before, I like that lesson because both my parents had literally nothing when they came to the US and learned and learned and when it came time to apply they knew, they did it

We have our own company because of that and it is very profitable and we have a large clientele to where we're overbooked some weeks! My favorite lesson they've taught me is how to cherish the little things because when kids my age no matter the gender, ethnicity, religion etc we take our parents hard work for granted and that's wrong. My dad comes home at 3 in the morning sometimes with blistered hands yet he'll be up and ready to go out the door at 7 in the morning and if my

brothers or mom ask for something he doesn't hesitate and he'll get it for us and we've learned to appreciate that because not many people are like that. When you think of my family and me or people of my race don't think of us as bad people who "steal" or take other people's jobs and just take advantage of the public assistance programs. Think of us as hard working, kind people who care for one another and love each other a lot.