Problem Trees

The purpose of the problem trees was for the students to think about and visually depict their understandings of the problems that affect their daily lives. This understanding was illustrated through a representation of a tree and its parts. While the tree trunk serves as the place through which to identify problems or issues, the leaves depict experiences that illustrate the problems. The roots, then, are meant to represent what the students view as the causes of the problems or issues.

Problem Tree 1 Description
- Green sticky notes = the leaves = experiences
- Pink sticky notes = the trunk = problems/issues
- Blue sticky notes = the roots = causes

The leaves (from left to right and in rows)
- integrarse a la sociedad (idioma) *[integrate into society (language)]*
- limitadas oportunidades de trabajo *[limited work opportunities]*
- se rien de la gente *[they laugh at people]*
- people think you're poor because you're Latina/o and then don't want to help you
- verguenza *[shame]*
- preferencia *[preference] – I think in this context it meant preference for other non –Latin@s*
- being left out
- irrespeto *[disrespect]*
- bromas de uno por ser Latino *[jokes about people because they are Latin@]*
- se creen mas que los demás *[they think they are more than everyone else]*
- aislamiento *[isolation]*
- se creen mejor que los demas *[they think they are better than everyone else]*
- under surveillance at the store – being followed around

The trunk (from highest to lowest)
- ingresos económicos *[income]*
- discriminación *[discrimination]*
- idioma *[language]*

Problem Tree 2 Description
- Green sticky notes = the leaves = experiences and messages about such experiences
- Trunk = black marker on white chart paper = See note below
- Roots = black marker on white chart paper = See note below

The leaves (from left to right and in rows)
- Se pierden las ganas de seguir estudiando *[The will to keep studying gets lost]*
- la influencia de los demas te hacen perder las ideas *[the influence of others make you lose your ideas]*
- El Ejemplo de la sociedad latina me hace pensar entre trabajo o estudiar *[the example of the Latino society makes me think about [choosing] between work and education]*
- necesidad de entender las buena ideas *[the necessity to understand the good ideas]*
- dado a que no reconozcan nuestras abilidades y previos estudios, nuestra capacidad y ganas de seguir se disminuyen *[given that our abilities and previous education is not recognized, our abilities and desire to continue decrease]*

- AVECES PREFIERO TRABAJAR PARA GANAR DINERO QUE ESTUDIAR *[Sometimes I prefer to work so I can earn money rather than study]*
- Si era Pelon era cholo *[If one had a lot of hair he was a cholo]*
- Uno se vuelve Agresivo con los demas que no son Lanios! *[One becomes aggressive with non-Latinos!]*
- Las expectativas son tan bajas que la productividad baja tambien *[The expectations are so low that productivity also goes down]*
- Uno cambia su modo de ser para sentirse como los demas no como un extraño *[One changes the way s/he acts in order to fit in and not feel like an outsider]*
- Se dejan [illegible: preotiar?] por los demas porque con tiempo pierden la razon de la verdad y esperanzas *[Not sure what this means]*
- MUCHOS TOMAN IMPORTANCIA AL STATUS QUE TIENE CADA UNO EN EL PAIS *[Many place a great deal of importance on the status that one has in her or his country]*
- Si me veian tomando immediatemente me markaban como borracho *[If they saw me drinking immediately they would mark me as a drunk]*
- todo individuo es difernte al Penzar, actuar, hablar y expresarce *[Every individual es different in the way s/he thinks, acts, and expresses her or himself]*
- Nomas Porque me vestia con ropa floja era Pandillero *[I was a gangster just because I dressed in loose clothing]*

The trunk (from left to right)
- generalizaciones *[generalizations]*
- una persona como ejemplo *[one person as the example = note: perhaps meaning the example that represents all]*
- autoestima *[self-esteem]*
- competencia entre razas *[competition between races]*

The roots (from left to right)
- influencia *[influence]*
- social context
  - = individual psychology
- generalización ↔ economías ↔ estado → necesita trabajadores baratos *[generalization ↔economics ↔ the state → needs cheap labour]*
- formas de gobierno *[forms of government]*
- Housing policy (illegible word underneath)
- Control estado *[control of the state]*
- Regulation gangs as police
- (on green sticky note) interpelation – Tu Eres lo que tu sociedad te dice que eres.
- internalization *[You are what your society tells you that you are]*