It is Illogical to Oppose Multicultural Literature

Tony Diaz wrote the essay titled “Texas GOP Would Discourage Multiculturalism”. It was published in the Houston Chronicle. He wrote an argument to inform Texas Conservative businessmen, between the ages of 35 and 45, that they were on the verge of acting like Arizona Republicans because they have condoned language to oppose Multicultural literature in the 2012 Texas GOP platform. The Conservatives in the intended audience are college educated, professionals, with families, and most likely kids. He appeals to the logic of these businessmen and makes it clear to them that this is something they must obviously avoid doing. Diaz wants to make the actions of Arizona Republicans appear illogical to Texas Conservatives.

In the early part of the essay, Diaz writes, “So are you the type of Republican who would prohibit the teaching of the story of World War II hero and Texas legend Roy Benavidez from the classroom? His memoir will fall under the rubric of multiculturalism. He's an American hero. His life story is not divisive.” Diaz refers to a specific figure who served in the military. Conservatives are often pro-military. It would not make sense for them to oppose the teaching of the story of not only a soldier, but a solider from Texas. The only reason that it seems that this story would be kept from a classroom is only because “Benavidez” has a Hispanic last name. It would be logical to Conservative Texas Businessmen to extol the story of a war hero. Furthermore, a Hispanic Conservative Businessman from Texas would know that Benavidez served in Vietnam, not World War II. This would inspire Tejanos to more aggressively advocate for Multicultural literature and history because other Latinos might not have heard of Benavidez, or worse, might thing he served in World War II, as Diaz states, instead of having served in Vietnam. It seems logical then that the only way to tell the story of Benavidez accurately is to study him, in school.

Diaz goes on to write, “Will you spank my son if he reads the speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.? Will you ban the writings of Maxine Hong Kingston? These works are powerful examples of multicultural literature.” It goes against reason to condone corporal punishment. A businessman might be prone to believing in the advanced management skills of the corporate world-which do not include spanking. Furthermore, even the business men who do condone corporal punishment would be taken aback at the mention of striking students for reading. Furthermore, it goes against the logic of Texas Businessmen to hear that someone would strike children not just for reading, but for reading Martin Luther King, one of the most revered Civil Rights leaders in American history. Add to that the fact that the punishment would be administered for also reading the works of Maxine Hong Kinston, who college graduates of between 35 – 45 years of age would have read in college-in a multicultural literature class-which they were most likely not spanked for.

In the middle of the essay, Diaz writes, “Arizona's anti-intellectual movement must not spread the way its anti-immigrant movement has spread.” Arizona’s anti-immigrant movement has made national headlines for the last 3 years-at least. Here Diaz makes a forensic argument. It appears to be a fact that Arizona is known for this issue that leads to a lot of emotional debates. Also, he wants to portray Arizona’s policies as “anti-intellectual,” which if a Texas Republican has continued to read the essay to this point, they may very well agree. Also, Diaz compares Arizona’s anti-immigrant movement to its Anti-intellectual movement. One has spread like wildfire. Thus, Diaz wants to use that to make a forensic case that this can happen too with unfair Texas laws if Texas Republicans act unreasonably. By the end of the essay, Diaz wants to make it a logical choice to champion multicultural literature.

Diaz appeals to the logic of Texas Conservative men, who are college educated, who are professionals, who have families. He shows how Arizona Republicans are acting illogically. The essay informs Texas conservatives that it would be unreasonable to tolerate laws that oppress multicultural literature.