

HUMAN FLASHCARD

Objectives

- Students will be introduced to ideas and themes in *Alma*
- Students will explore their personal and collective connections to these ideas
- Students will create tableaus that express their personal and collective connections to these ideas

Materials needed

- Index cards with a written theme word

Activity

In *Alma*, flashcards are an important prop. There are two sets of flashcards: Angel's with vocabulary words for the SAT exam and Alma's to help her prepare for her citizenship test.

1. Invite the students to walk around the space, being mindful not to bump into anyone.
2. Share a theme from the play and ask the students to think about what it means to them. On a 10-count, students will stop and strike a tableau – a frozen picture – that represents something about the word for them. Repeat using the following ideas:

Themes: Borders, American Dream, Justice, Immigration, Wishes, Bridges

3. Place students in groups of 3-4 and give each group one of the words written on an index card. Ask them to talk about what the word mean to them.
4. Invite the students to create a group tableau that represents what the word means to them. They will communicate in the tableau what the theme/idea means to them and how it makes them feel.
5. Share: One at a time, give each group a count of 1, 2, 3, frozen picture. Ask the audience: What do you see? What's the feeling? Ask the artists: What is your word? Can you share some of the highlights of your conversation?

While you watch the play *Alma*, notice what these themes and ideas mean to the characters and their lives. Notice what is similar to your thoughts and feelings and what might be very different.