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### The Role of English and Spanish in the United States

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# What do young adults (18-30 years old) think about the role of English and Spanish in the United States?

## Cristina Moricete

### INTRODUCTION

Hispanics in the United States have faced much discrimination, currently related to the use of Spanish in public. This raises the issue of what role people see for English and Spanish in the United States.

### RESEARCH QUESTION

What do young adults (18-30 years old) think about the role of English and Spanish in the United States?

### DATA COLLECTION

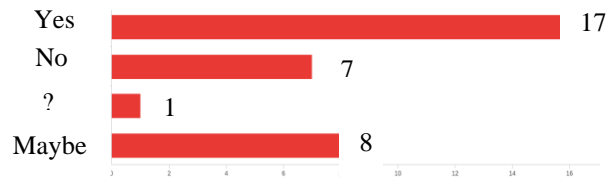
Online Survey

### PARTICIPANTS

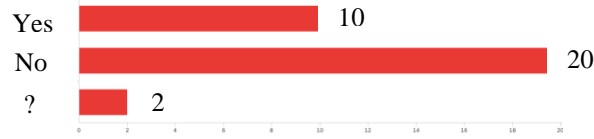
<b>Age</b>	18-30 years
<b>Birthplace</b>	US: 18 DR: 9 Other: 5
<b>Native Language</b>	English: 12 Spanish: 14 Both: 4 Other: 2
<b>Home Language</b>	English: 10 Spanish: 16 Both: 5 Other: 1

### SELECTED FINDINGS

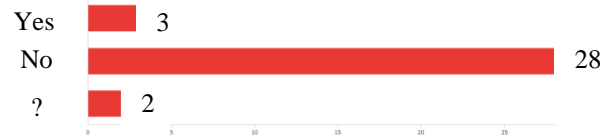
Should American citizens that are non-native English speakers have to learn English?



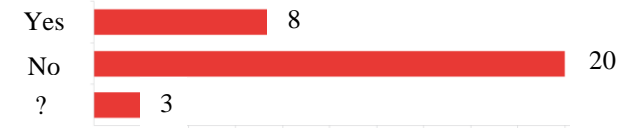
Have you ever gotten frustrated when someone you needed to communicate with couldn't speak English?



Do you agree with those people who tell Hispanics to "Speak American?"



Should the United States have an official language?



### CONCLUSION

Almost all participants indicated respect for both English and Spanish speakers and a role for both languages in society. Some reported frustration over language barriers, but also communicated awareness of how difficult it is to learn a second language. The majority recognized that there is not an official language and do not support creating one due to a possible increase in language-based discrimination. At the same time, many participants affirmed the importance of learning English and recognized the benefits and opportunities that come with being bilingual.