

Stop It: Our Future, A Threat

**A Documentary Theater Project Created by Mr.
Garcia's American Literature Class**

**School of Communication and Global Awareness at
Manual Arts High School**

February 2010

Introduction

At the beginning of this quarter, the students in my third period American Literature class decided to engage in a focused inquiry on the history of South Central Los Angeles from a literary lens. One of the texts that our class read was *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992*, by Anna Deavere Smith. This documentary theater project was based around a series of interviews with key witnesses and individuals related to the Rodney King Riots. Using Smith's model of including word-for-word interviews, our class attempted to document the ideas, questions, and frustrations that the Manual Arts community is facing in today's economic crisis. These monologues interweave various language practices and, though some of the grammar will occasionally confound, reflect the naturally occurring poetry of everyday human speech. This work is offered not as a definitive statement of the effect of the budget cuts in South Central, but as an opportunity to engage in a continuing dialogue with the voices of the present. – *Antero Garcia*

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I. Lay Offs

Are we facing another depression? Through the interviewing process of the South Central community it seems that the people of the community are outraged and hurt by the layoffs. There is unemployment at all time highs and parents can't even put food on their kid's table. The government must have sympathy for these families.

Anonymous Man

After school program organizer

A White young man, in his twenties. Walking over the Subway and the slowly seated in one of the table of the restaurant. In the background many people buying Subways.

I organize

And strutted the

The relationships for the after school program,

The community, the students, the school.

The budget cuts?

Well

The budget cuts affect

The after school program as well.

I had to fire two staff member

But

But instead I cut one day of each employee

To keep everyone employed.

Huh huh.

Many people in the community

Are are

How unemployed that were

Not before.

This is much harder

For this community because

Of the lower education

And

Poverty

Level where the competition is

Greater to obtain work.

Vanessa Canales

Teacher at Manuel Arts High School

“Riff’d”

Late twenties Latina, Friday afternoon Manuel Arts High School Computer lab.

My name is Vanessa Canales.

I have been teaching at Manual Arts High School for four years.

And I have a single subject...ah

A clear single English Credential.

Ok all the teachers whether they are in risk or not,

whether it be because of classrooms size...ah

or because of ...ah

lack of services available because of not enough money for books.

All the teachers have been affected,

and I feel like a lot of good teachers are been driven out of their

profession because of the fact that...ah

their job is becoming harder and harder, and also they have to

take their family into account and do what is best for their family.

And if they don't have job security, then they have to look else

where to find it in order to provide what they need for their family.

When you have a classroom with 40 plus students,

Even 30 plus students is really hard to give each student the

individual attention that they need...ah

Unfortunately all the students are not at the levels

where we would like them to be,

and they need our support, our help,

and when you have forty students that need your help
it is really hard to give them all the individual attention
that they need....um
because we don't have enough teachers classrooms sizes
are increasing, and the students are not getting the
education that they deserve.

Last year I was actually Riff'd which means that
I lost my job, and I got it back right before they did the
Official Riff'd notices.

So I already went through losing my job,
and it sucks....um

It really, really put your life into perspective,
And makes you realize that you don't have
job security,
and because of all the things that are going on
now with the....

I guess continuing budget cuts my job is still
not safe, and I am facing getting Riff'd again,
which that makes me think do I really want to continue
doing this because I don't have any
job security at all?

I feel frustrated.

I feel really disappointed,

I mean I don't understand why it is that education
has to take the hardest cuts where there is so
many different places that things can be.....ah

that things can be cut from in order to give.....ah
our kids what they need.

I mean that is their future and we are
depriving them the opportunity to go to college,
and be successful because of the fact that we
are not giving them the education that they deserve,

Audra Hollingsworth

English Teacher at Manual Arts High School

“The Budget cuts have affected all of us”

An American woman in her thirties. Hollingsworth has been teaching for eight years in total. She taught one year in Mexico, one year in Orange County, and six years at Manual Arts where she is right now. (Audra Hollingsworth has an English credential).

I think that the budget cuts have affected all of us,

Ah,

Greatly

Specially the teachers and the students,

We have less resources,

And, in our classrooms,

We also, ah,

Can't do as many activities as we used to do.

And,

The class sizes are greater than it used to be.

Also for teachers we have less jobs abilities

And,

That makes it more difficult, personally because we don't know

If we will have our jobs in the future (thoughtful)

Or if we can stay in the same location,

It creates more stress, I think for me personally.

In the pass I have attended to many rallies created by the Union [to show support]

I also have attended here at Manual Arts

And...

I have signed many petitions to vote to our local government and state government.

If budget cuts continue, I think the students of Manual Arts will be greatly affected by the budget cuts, because that means that we will lose more teachers at Manual,

So the classes will be greater,

And,

The quality of education will be less because there will be so many students in a whole class

It will be more difficult to teach.

Also there'll be less resources and I think is really unfair

Because most of the budget cuts that we see,

Are only happening in,

Ah,

Ah,

I will say...

In areas that have more money.

You don't see so many budget cuts at Beverly Hills

Or,

For example Hermosa Beach

Or other areas that have more money

I'm sure you guys have talk about that,

But, ah, it's

It's disconcerting because I think the students here at Manual Arts

Um,

They deserve the teachers and they deserve all the resources,

Ah,

But yet, they won't get the resources.

Ah, and,

That's going to affect them in the future.

Their not going to receive the high level of education

And,

And it'll be difficult for them to succeed in the future.

I think if budget cuts continue, public education in California it's really

In-a-bad-place

Ah

I think that in the recent years, we've seen charter schools

And privatization schools and I think that a lot of students

Will start going there because the public schools don't have the money

And they don't have the resources

Ah,

And I also feel that a lot of their teachers won't go (thoughtful)

A lot of people who will be teachers (rapidly)

Won't go into the profession because the pay is so low,

And they have to work perhaps in not very good conditions.

So,

The quality of teaching will go down

And,

That obviously affects students because they don't have good,

Good teachers,

And, they are not going to receive a high level of education.

Ah,

I think that it's something that as a society we have to decide that education

Is important, and if...

Ah,

Right now our society doesn't place a lot of value in education,

Let me see (thoughtful)

And, ah

And I think that as the society and as a culture,

We have to place more value in education.

If not, ah,
Our country is going to be really affected by, and there is so many countries
That are sub-passing us,
You know,
Asian countries and European countries
And I think that we are going to see that in the future.
Ah,
I been teaching here (at Manual Arts) for six years,
But, I have thought so many times I might lose my job
And,
It's really scary because we have to pay rent,
And you have,
Some people have family, and children
And if they lose their job,
What will they do?
For me personally, I don't have a family and I don't have a home,
So it's a little bit easier.
If I lose my job I could look for another job,
But I think,
I think I will look at it as a science,
I should do something else.
I will probably look for another job,
Maybe in a different city.
Ah, but I think it's really scary
Specially because
We've gone through so many schooling like I have went
To university and I have my master degree.
But yet,

My job is not secure and specially
There is more difficult economic times
It's,
It's a bit demoralizing and frightening to think
That maybe in a couple of months
I won't have a pay check,
But,
Will see....

Herman A. Lopez

Coach and teacher in Manual arts High school

“Worry if I am going to be fired”

Latino man

I am from El Salvador; I came to this country when I was fourteen years old. I studied in John Adams and then I attended Manual Arts High School. I attended to the university and 1992-1997 I finish my science degree. I have been teaching Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics and ICS. Also I Am the coach from Manual arts High School from 2003-2010.

I feel bad for all those that are

Loosing their jobs. But I worry because

I don't know if I am going to be

One of those that are going to be fired.

Well... my life was the same but before

I felt safe in my work because I did not

worry about that the district would fire me.

I think that the economic depression that's

we are passing is the cause of the budget cuts.

Also the government did not know how to spend the money.

I think that for the next 2-5 years we are not

going to be able to find a solution.

This generation is going to be affected because

those that want to go to university are going to have a hard time

finding money to go university.

Also because the classes are

different and there are going to be more student

in those classes for the cause of the budget cuts.

What I think is that the government is looking

for an easy way it is easy to fire teacher

rather than find better solution that minimize damage to education.

and they are not looking for a good resolution

because what they are doing is cutting the

teachers and workers.

1st of all the states have to study all the necessary

projects and work for a resolution that not

going to affect all the students and teachers.

Well... if I am going to be one of the teachers that

are going to be fired in June 31, 2010.

I will move to Texas or Utah. And work with my

uncle in the landscaping business that he has in

Texas or move to others states for get a resolution.

I know that's I going to be hard to find other

job in other states if the problems is in all the

country even in some parts of the world.

Gustavo Alonso

Student at Abraham Friedman Occupational Center

A sixty year old man, dress with old blue jeans. Hi has a Latino accent. He wears glasses.

He has a big beard. He seems to speak English with difficulty. He is short. He is wearing a red cap. He is holding a grey Ethernet cable as he is speaking.

Uhm, Uhm,

I come to the United States uhm,

To work. La economy is better here.

Uhm, but there are no jobs!

I have to send money to my family in Guatemala

I don't have a job. I need money.

I don't have no job because I have no papers.

Nobody want to give me work because I am Viejo.

I not speak English.

Todo is expensive. I don't have money to food!

I to pay the rent, food, and shoes.

I have no money. My family needs money uhm, I

Obama will give papers pero el no hace nada!

I paint house, I know jardinero, I know mucho

But nadie me da trabajo.

The don't give me job because I'm Mexican.

That is not fair.

Andres Suh

B@G Clothing Store Manager

“It Does Sucks”

A twenty-four-year-old Korean man. Very fast talker. Switches between serious and humorous tones, always talking. Very focused on keeping the store in order, very particular and demanding. Graduate of UCLA.

Well, I feel that budget cuts are not so great due to the fact that a lot of people will have to pay for it. With a budget cut most likely taxes will go up and funds for other programs will be cut short. For Example, if schools were giving less money, then most likely teachers will lose their jobs, classes will be stop, and even after school programs will be closed. So when I budget is cut then most likely taxes will be going to go up to make up for the lost.

Let's see for the city the mayor is in charge of the budget cuts, which he will decide on where the funds for the city will be spent on and where a budget will be, need to be cut.

For the state is will be the governor, who will decide on the whole state where funds can be send and spent on for that year. For example, if there are an emergency extra funds saved will be spent on firefighters and other resources to help and if there is a shortage of funds, he or she will have to decide where to cut budget from to pay for the cost.

For the United States if will be congress and the president. They will decide which programs the funds will be used for or cut from.

The mayor, governor, congress, and the president all do decide on budgets for transportation, health, and education.

Well it does sucks sometimes, since cutting budget is never a good thing, due to the fact that it will affect almost everyone. But we do have the right to choose who we want as mayor, governor, and president, and we have to hope that we did pick the right person to make the right choices for all of us.

Well to me I think that when a budget is cut from education funds, it really sucks. It will make it harder for a lot of students since a lot of changes will be made, like schools closing, less teachers, and even less classes. For example, when colleges funds are cut, students will be seeing less classes available to them to take in order to graduate on time, less teachers on campus to teach, more students in classes making it harder for students to learn, and even less or even no school grants will be given out. For non colleges, school funds are important to them also, due to the fact that they use the funds to buy new books, supplies, and even pay for after school programs. Without those needs, it will give the students less the opportunity to learn in school and to stay in school.

Well the education budget cut has affected some of my friends, due to the fact that some of their classes have been cancelled. Well less money going to education, schools were forced to cancel some classes, which made it harder for my friends to take the classes they needed to graduate on time. Well less classes available to students, it makes it harder for students to take the right classes when they need it and forces some students to attend different schools to make up for the classes that was cancelled.

I think what is causing the budget cuts is that we are short on funds do to the economic getting from bad to worse as we head into this depression. With fewer funds, more budgets will be cut, causing a lot of problems, which will most likely increase taxes and fewer jobs available to the public.

With a budget cut on education means less money for schools, so schools will be looking for private funding. Without much state funds being handed to schools, they must look and to receive what they can from private support to help out pay for the cost they have lost.

With fewer funds given to schools, students will be forced to pay more fees to attend school, making it harder for most families to pay for school without school grants or even scholarships. This may cause some students who want a better education to attend community college and transfer later into a university.

Honestly to me, I would try to find another way to find money funds to avoid making a cut from education. The fact the state makes a lot of cut from education; we have already seen the outcome of it. Couple years back the tuition fee for the UC system went up causing an up rise. But with the budget bring short due to the depression, funds would be cut no matter, how hard the choice will be.

Well if a company makes a budget cut, the total money they have decreases which means that they can either cut out their expenses such as employments or even decrease their employee pay. This also can cause the cut back on production so the overhead is less than expected

Anonymous Teacher at Manual Arts

The school budget cuts! I think its unfair for the students and umm everyone involve in the educational system due to the fact that we have allot of students that are not academically involve in succeeding. so the budget cuts will just create more problems within in the school and the student population.

The economic crisis are affecting me as far as umm a comes to the educational system because I am currently a teacher and would like aspire to be an administrator and do to the budget cuts I see the opportunity as administrator diminishing and also umm as teacher I am in fear to loosing my job due to the fact that they are to lay off more then 10,000 teachers this July.

The budget cuts are affecting my family in away that if in fact I am one of the ones receiving the IRS the RIF which is the umm a letter indicating that I might be the one umm being dismiss from my job when ill be able to provide the economic support that I currently give my family as a financial support.

My paycheck will get affected specially on the LAUSD we are expected to receive a patch 12% cuts in our paycheck and also for foreign days in other words we will not work four days out of the year there for we will not get paid.

The way my own children are getting affected in there education is due to the fact that I am worry about my job in other words lay offs I am not providing the education support that I need to provide to my own children therefore they are umm perhaps failing classes because of um me not being able to provide them the support to the fact that I am worried about our well being due to the budget cuts.

Ummm, I would say everybody in the educational system specially those teachers that have working for the district or any other district less then 10 years umm they might be affected therefore there going to under goal the same problems I my self am undergoing or will under goal just as every one else in the nation.

The ones I think are to blame for this is that I would say it comes from federal to state district everyone that's involved in creating the laws that do not see the affect with in our community. they don't realize that children are the future umm and they just want to say the world there for more time should be investing in preparing kids to a better life rather that creating more jails, prisons, and cutting on the mental clinics which that is what is going to prepare our future to be better in life.

My opinion is that before they create the laws that they don't know what affect will bring upon the community. they themselves need to come into our classrooms they themselves need to prepare educating our children and seeing what the affect will be which is creating to make better laws that they need to be part of the neighborhood. for example south central LA, Compton and other neighborhoods that serve kids that are low income and seeing what they have in order for them to start creating laws that will be more affective not until they experience what others have experienced such as teachers counselors and administrators that can create the laws and understand what budget cuts and anything wrong that decided that will affect our future generations.

II. Education

The budget cuts are affecting the education of the students because there are not enough teachers. Most of the classes are increasing by the number of students because of the budget cuts. With more students in the classrooms the teacher can't pay attention to the students. Also with less teachers our elective classes like art and music are disappearing, which to us is a essential for the freedom of expression.

Cecilia Mejia

“Budget cuts”

She is nineteen years old she was on the sofa.

Budget cuts is affecting community local because there are a lot of people without job this is affecting our sons because at the schools there are full classes and the students cant get concentrated.

This problem is affecting to everybody and budget cut have to stop because it have just negative effect that is affecting the community.

How budget cuts is affecting the local community its affecting it with different forms there are a lot of people that lost their job and right now they don't have the money how to support their families.

There are more people most affecting because they lost their job and now they are looking for a job and this is a difficult situation because sometime its take a long time for can find a job.

What can we do for stop budget cut we can do protest and work together for can resolve this problem.

This is affecting your education because budget cut is fired teachers and right now there are many student at a room and I believe our sons cant get concentrated.

Budget cuts affect me about my work because they fired a lot of people so there is more work for me to do.

It can be fix if budget cut stop

Mr. Miranda

Spanish Teacher

“Less Learning For Students”

He is Mexican man he teaches Spanish. Also he is really nice person with the students and others teacher. He helps at anyone who needs help. He is very friendly.

The school personnel have been reduced affecting student access to different programs and services.

The government is not balancing the budget therefore over spending in bureaucratic needs rather than on students programs.

They need to get information from different areas and funnel the state funds where is most needed.

The people can prevent this by getting more involved in their son's and/or daughter's education. By getting involved they will have an idea of the different areas where improvement is highly needed. On the same hand, accountability and reliability can be demanded.

The same way it affects the community; services aren't offered necessary for their academic success.

The feeling behind the cuts is frustration because they, government officials, are not measuring the public positions the same way. So many highly needed positions were vanished meanwhile they “protected” others.

The situation affects my life by bringing a level of uncertainty to it. You never know when your current classroom position will be affected or eliminated.

State officials need to reduce bureaucracy and become more involved in the state's low academic situation. Demand accountability from all classroom and administrative personnel.

The state's economic situation is precarious. The situation is far from improving. The current state crisis demands the reduction of expenses but they always start from the far end of the chain.

The best advice is to redirect funds and efforts to previously studied areas in student needs. In doing so, the state will be able to demand reliability and accountability from all the involved personnel. Success is state of mind, so if the administrative and classroom personnel as well as the students cooperatively work together with the same mentality, a great outcome will be the result.

Anonymous College Student

“The American Dream”

A Mexican American, college student wearing jeans and a shirt with some design at his shirt clearly speaking and with a confident voice.

Well personal I don't like to talk about that!!

but I think is a big problem who affect all around us....

and the main point is the economy.

because the government is taking control of all our education,

the last year many of my teachers in college got the pink letter telling them, that they are not part of the faculty any more.

and many of those teachers had to make a protest to let the government see they arguments, and ... and...

some of them got it back, but what about those teachers who had to go find

another job

what about those people who don't have any work....

tell me one thing.....(pointing at me) we are in the United States right??

don't we are in America.... the American dream?? that everyone have the same opportunity.....

but tell me one more thing the teachers work for our government ...for our community right??

if they don't have any work how in a person without documentation are going to have a job!!!!!!

No...NO....NO!!!!

I don't know what is happening in America!!!

why???

because.....

we need money!!

this crisis affect every one in America.....all
students ,parents, teachers.....

no future for us!!!

no better life for all the students!!0we need to make a change in U.S.A
we need a power voice!!

ah.,ah

I don't want to said anything any more!

Wilfred Hernandez

Student from Washington high school

Students Education

He is a Latino very simply dressed in his living room in Normandy. A Short person white skin. He speaks slowly, carefully.

Budgets cuts is a crisis that affect all the people in California
I remember my teacher from biology in Washington high school
She one of the best teacher that I had
Nobody thought that she would got a pink slip
But she did (pause)
Is kind of unfair because she is a great teacher
That didn't deserved to get a pink slip
Uh, uh there were more teachers that got pink slip
Before the cuts of teachers the rooms were more empty of students
And now the rooms are full of students
There are not enough chairs for everybody
I cannot concentrated in classes because is to noises
And everybody is talking at the same time that the teacher is explaining
No one hear nothing
Is hard to be in this situation for students
Nobody learn in a place where is to noises (pause)
Is not just teacher cuts also are programs cuts
The sing class was cut because there was not money for uniforms
And the students don't want to buy their own uniforms
I don't know why educations is one of the most problem in budgets cut
There are another's programs that spend more money
Like the NASA.

Mr. Miller

Teacher

A man who is great, glad to talk, fabulous voice, who is having changes in his life because of the budget cut in California.

Yes, uhh, we are responsible or select for the decisions made

Exercise or sports and cutting of the people there

And eventually remove them,

I'm the sole worker for my

Family and my pay is going to be cut so I don't want budget cuts to

appreciate but not sure how much I am going to make next year so it may affect my pay...

Health care is going up and, uh, you cannot support for that, uh

and then there is my job here working with the students, giving harder and harder because their life is giving harder and harder as a result of production services.

The community of Los California, I would change the third rule for cutting the budget

And increasing taxes so that the minor of rule

Of the state of the whole, I consider Los Angeles could be the inlay of the dry the economy of the states and I don't think we're going to be fair about these sources, uhh.

Probably the year's resources having border up to the state level and we having receive help we the greater needs in services the we have down here and the states has continue to cut help, housing and other issue. But the main thing I do is creating another affordable hosing...uhh, requirement for the affordable housing

Absolutely, uhh, there is no place in Los Angeles or south in California that a person can get single bed room apartment, you know that many people work for minimum wage so that's mean they don't have access to affordable housing, I used to tell new teachers that they should buy a house. California created UC system that was a model for the colleges, college system and they used to be free, I know the people who are age that can run for office and are citizens and office making decision, they're benefic for education, high level education they receive from public fund from tax payers. They go on to create laws the reduces the amounts of money that they can go to schools so that the funding falls and fall and fall so they can go back and expect and demand more of the public subtends allowing to get public education people right now are getting in the colleges and they're deciding that no longer for it live in the colleges, I think in a long wrong the would demonstrate us as the sociality. If you look up Europe many people there are paying to go to college and is not only because that but at the barely they are struggling to turn the college, which we

recognize the education inaccessible must something that should grow up and cost every single year and cost more than a home in some cases.

Anonymous Student

An 11th grade Manual Arts student

“Under the table”

In his homeroom, back from the computer lab of the school. A student of 17 years old opine about how the budget cuts are affecting the state, school and him as student.

Budget cuts are a waste of money.

The governors should stop wasting so much money and start investing in good things that would help, benefit the economy.

But not really, wait!

Education has nothing to do with budget cuts, at all!

They should keep budget cuts away from education.

They're firing so good teachers and... that's pretty much's it.

So, the voice um... the budget cuts affect me as student because most of the teachers that I like are really going.

But on my respective as student a, like, um. (searching for words)

Many teachers are trying to make a cove, but the... since the budget cuts, won't to have money and the budget won't let us.

So we can't.

So, we just have to keep it under the table.

Mostly per losing jobs and... since they don't have enough money to pay for their salaries or stuff like that.

Yeah!

Because most of the good things are disappearing , like the music classes and the extra-creative activities, and we won't get pay as much when we go into our jobs, in the future.

(Thinking for an answer to the question)

Nothing at all.

Just lot of homeless people and cut jobs that we really need.

It's helping more than hurting.

That's all I have to say 'bout that.

Most of the programs that we have, have already started to disappear.

So, like...

You won't have enough money to start doing things that you want to do.

Lee Chuck

Art teacher from USC

“Budget cuts in California”

A Chinese American man in his forties. He had been teacher for fifteen years speaks very rapidly. He is a thin man, not very tall. He is always wearing glasses.

California's budget cuts have forced many high school to reduce activities that

would further a teenager's education... I think that...uh, these budget cuts are not only affecting student, but teachers as well.

And teachers are also facing other problems like...uh! To buy their own supplies because there is not money. I had been see many friends doing these with their student. (Pause) I feel sorry for all those colleagues, and uh,

The problem is that the budget cuts can cause a higher drop out in high school students!! You know it...

The impact of this budget cuts is very severe.

So that is why ,,,,uh in order to lower the rate of drop out people must indentify the problem, people must gather the necessary information about budget cuts, evaluate the cause and effect of the problem, and then try to find a solution that can help all that is affect by the problem.

Todd Irving

Principal of Manual Arts High School

“Hard to be Successful in the Ghetto”

A tall muscular African-American man in his late forties, has multiple tattoos around his torso. Sitting in his office, working on his computer getting paper work done.

Our food doesn't have the worst taste and it isn't the best food but we choose these foods

Base on our health. Our foods today is for us to be a healthy school..

I agree it is hard to be successful in crowed classrooms. In that case we are starting a program to help us to get more students in different classrooms. Therefore more students have a better chance to pass the class. With more attention from our teachers and classes will be equal.

Makes you look at the money a lot when talking about budgets cuts. Manuel arts high school gets up to 26 million dollars to spend it on whatever we want. We have to spend this

Money in the right way.

I have to make tough decision around here and I have to make the right ones. The ones that best fit the students. My students go first before anybody else.

If you get good results we get better cuts. It's a good affect to our school . Also I make sure of everything that comes out and that comes in our school. It dose stress me out sometimes.

The only way it worries me is when things don't work out the way we plan and we have to find

A new way to work with these things beside that there's nothing. Because of my experience in other school, I know what to do with things like this.

The whole budgets things is run by the LAUSD . me and a group of people buy stuff and order stuff for our school. To better our school and to be more successful

III. Money Decreasing

The decrease in money is affecting us because its getting hard for our parents to pay for the our house mortgages. Another way that it is affecting us is that people work hard and don't get as much money as they used to before the budget cuts or before this recession.

Marlene Vargas

Yesenia's Neighbor

Budget Cuts

Well budget cuts are something that we can't do anything about.

It's definitely a big problem.

My salary has not been cut...yet ha-ha

My husband's was though, it came from 20 bucks an hour to 18 dollars an hour.

Yeah! I don't feel like Marvin's getting many options in classes to take in Manual.

He's been telling me he doesn't have interesting classes to take and that there's a whole bunch of securities around school now.

The principal is obviously wasting a cool amount of money paying those guys right?
He should spend that money on materials for art classes or on more teachers and building more classrooms.

Stressed out? Hmm at times yeah when I see all my bills piled up.

Hahaha no never had suicidal thoughts, I'm still pretty sane after all.

I don't think there's someone to blame for these cuts.

I guess we've all been wasting money on useless things.

My head, ha-ha well the only thing I've been close to losing is my house, its getting a bit more difficult for me to pay for it.

The only thing there is to do about this is stop spending money on useless things I guess.

We will get out of it, we just need to have faith.

Angel

A boy of fifteen years old. 10th grade student. Studying at Francisco Bravo High School. His mother after working at American Apparel, she looks like is hard with a low salary. How this affected and is affecting him?

My mom was working in American Apparel, obviously between now and before is a big change.

For example... (He started to think).

Before, I can have many every day, but now I just only have many the weekends.

(Pause)

I think that she is almost always mad because she needs to find out from where to take the money for the rent, uhm...., etc...

Ummm...

All I know is that after lose her job at American Apparel; she needed an operation, so now was harder to pay the operation.

(Sounded his computer like resaving a message. He looked at it but he ignored the alarm.)

Yeah..!!!!!!!

The reason she lose her job was because the government was obligating the boss to do not let illegal people at his factory. Before Dov (the boss), pay some tickets for the same reason, to keep them working in the factory but now he could not afford it. The only thing that I know is that he wrote a letter to all the people who was losing their jobs and have no legal papers. At the end it says that Dov is going to fight to legalize all immigrants and he would wait for all the employees to come back with open arms. That is why they have t-shirts that says "LEGALIZE LA".

Mr. Dixon

He is a teacher that teaches history

African American man in his early 30's athletic light skin wearing a plain shirt sitting on his desk as the class start it.

I have been impacted by more its an outrage.

Teacher are getting laid of I don't find this fair.

Many of my trips have been canceled due to the lack of money.

I fear for the future of these students I fear they aren't getting a quality education.

If they're laying off so many teacher the least they

In do is more the classroom bigger.

Lauds knows our struggle but isn't doing anything to change the situation at times protest is necessary.

I see no change and fear that it may only get worse.

Juvini Rodriguez

Late 30's Latino graduated in manual arts a family member from Honduras that came to U.S.A for a better life. He is very funny and he is a and he is a very good athlete. He always repeat the word "that" kinda of funny.

My name is Juvini Maneiro Rodriguez.

I work in a Italian restaurant in culver city... ha-ha y no me creo.

I graduated in Manual Arts high school. Of course your school.

And I'm still single hehe... so you could tell your girl friends that I'm single Hahira!

The budget cuts are affecting the local community in a way... In a way that um... how can I explain it? The budget cuts is affecting it especially to all the people that is poor. Poor people are getting poorer because of the crisis that uh that um... United States economy. Well I think that what is wrong with this crisis is that the...hehe... estoy nervioso I think that the government is not putting enough effort to solve this situation. The budget cuts are affecting the local community because the government waste more money in the war instead of he country of U.S.A. Like I said, some of the people are more affected. But that people is the poor people, como dice el dicho "poor people get poorer and rich people get richer". Well we cant do nothing about it, not us "the poor people". We don't got enough power to change this situation, we could have the power of speech but is not enough to make this crisis go away...and uh, oh yeah! The government have the power to solve this awful situation. This is affecting your high school kinda bad. Because now the district LAUSD is raising the number of students in classrooms. And you guys don't even know why. Well me neither, hahaha! (Laughs like 2 minutes) so yeah... but they are raising it because of the budget cuts. The fuckin crisis is affecting me a lot George! My damn boss use to pay me 475 dollars a week, but now, not fuckin cool he is paying me 300 bucks. Why do you think George? Because of the damn crisis the fuckin budget cuts!

I don't know who's in charge of all this. But I am pretty sure that um, that is a rich guy or corporation that haves a lot of power. Like I said before this could only be fixed by the government. And those fuckers who are involve in the government, the better fix it.

If they don't this country is going to be ruined and the majority of the people are gunna go back to their countries...I would go if this happens.

Maria Alejandra Navarre

American Apparel Factory Worker

“Government vs. Immigration”

Alejandra is a Latina woman in her mid 30's. She holds two jobs, working hard to provide for her family. Maria had to take leave of her old job because she doesn't have papers to work legally in America. She speaks slowly with thought, sitting still in the living room of her South Central Los Angeles house. Her daughter and her cousin move around the house, always active.

Mm well it affecting me too much because in the way that I don't have Money to pay rent and food and staff for the house. Hum that what happen that in instead the pay everything for the house we are ganging more debts every day. In education I feel that is affecting me a lot because she is now going to be senior and that require more money for everything she need. I know now in her school she is not receiving good food and her classes are lot students. All of that is affecting my daughter.

And all of that is relating with my job because how is the economy now affect me. Because like people said ohhhh today I going to go the market but hum with this economy I can't go during the week so now I have to go just one time in the week.

For example in my case I had to take the decision to leave my job because hum because uhhh I do not have my paper and well hum I made a letter of renounce. I work for a factory that made clothes that is so famous. The government made a revision in that factory so hum I have to leave that job because if not they can send to my natal country. So they said to the entire worker that if people are taking their paper they can come back to the job. They gave us a time to leave the job and make the renounce. Uh I feel so sad for that decision that I made because I really liked that job the because our boss it was really good men with us. I am coming from immigrant parents that are why he understands our need. Uh also I feel so sad because now I am going to job to job just working one week in a job on ether week in other job. And that is a history of never end. I feel so tired and my hand is so maltreat because now my job is too hard and I not getting almost anything for pay. But I have to work because I have my daughter that is depending just from me. When I leave my job I really cry because it was like never did. In my opinion the government is really unfed with all the people that are immigrants. Well I just can say that if I have again the opportunity to get to my job again I would like to back to my old job.

IV. Resources

Our community is being affected by budget cuts, for there are resources being taken from us right now. Most of these resources are lacking in education like computer and books. We do get money from the government, but that money is going to build new schools. Why do we need new schools, when we can just improve older schools?

Karla

A 11 Grade Student From Manual Arts High School, With a pretty face, Short and good attitude.

I interview her in the out side of the cafeteria, she was wearing a great t-shirt with black pants.

Budget cuts not only affect students it also affect business ,
I was working for a fashion clothes and because of
budget cuts , the owner fail haft of the employers, I
was glad, the I wasn't one of them, customers are not going as often.
My pay check was of 260 from Saturday to Sunday from,
10 to 4, and now is like 240, it make me feel so angry.

Arnold Schwarzenegger is in charge of budget cuts,
umm, Budget cuts have led to increased class sizes, some as large as 50 students.
In these packed classrooms,
teachers are less able to give individual attention to students,
or spot potential vision problems, like squinting at the chalkboard.
Since 80 percent of all learning during a child's first 12 years is obtained through vision,
this seemingly small oversight could be incredibly detrimental to children's futures.
teachers lay off, canceled summer school and no new textbooks.
the amount of money that the state give to schools have been reduce, I
don't know why, but I don't think budget cuts is alright, Every area of state government
is impacted by the State's unprecedented budget shortfall, including the Department
of Developmental Services.

I can't do nothing to stop budget cuts, um maybe
but is not in my hands, who take those decision is Arnold Schwarzenegger,
While budget cuts force state funded schools to consider cutting degree programs,
state budget cuts could lead to a less qualified faculty and a diminished classroom experience.

Higher salaries will draw the best teachers to more competitive schools,
and fewer instructors mean fuller classrooms.

Carlos Monroe

Plumber

“Not enough”

An old man, grey hair, tall and fat

That's a big deal

That not only affects your school

That's affecting every single

School or any other business.

Just so you know

I went to buy a pair of shoes

At a wear house

But could not get it fast

Not because the place was full

But just imagine

There weren't too many employees

So I had to wait for a long time,

And I was really in a hurry

That really pissed me off man

It really pisses me off

When I try to do something but

I can't do it 'cause of another person

That's just great.

Anonymous Teacher

Budget cuts in the educational system affects everyone but specially students legislators and those making decisions should better invest in our educational system and welfare of the family because students are our future, also economy affects the whole family because of the foreclosure crisis family's are separating and have problems are using.

More crime, foreclosure of homes, more mental problems,(suicide ,drug addiction etc.)and clinics closing. Separation of families due to income problems, unemployment.

Low income people lower classes working class are more affected because we are the ones that need more support and services with the economic classes those services are no longer affected or will not be offered if the situation doesn't improve.

People taking advantage of other people for example foreclosure crisis could have been prevented if federal state, agents, loan, officers, banks and others didn't take advantage of the minutes and working class people that wanted to live the American dream. Of owning their own home. These consumes were taking advantage of and now are losing their homes after they invested banks and others to blame, benefited from this and the true victims are the consumers which some are now literally out in the streets while others are trying to fight back to keep the home. Also we can blame the federal government, state and district when it comes to education when they make decisions on budget cuts and how to spend the money without physically visiting the schools and see for them selves the services students need and track the progress more affectively.

Everyone in this count try affected or not effected should be borty of solving the problems before it becomes individually should pay taxes while low income individuals should not at least for some time until the state and federal budget is balanced then we should think of a more pay solution where every one regardless of income pays taxes abode economic problems for example higher income individuals should pay higher taxes than those who are low incomes.

Students drop to rate increases, students are involved in drug addictions and gangs due to programs being eliminated, teachers are deign layer off, overcrowded class rooms and schools , education program being cut teachers, administrators others employees receiving pay cuts schools closers.

Manuel Rodriquez

Assistant coach of Manual Arts girls' soccer team

“Budget cuts and its effect to my professional, health and social life.”

He is Nicaraguan and short. His voice is tough. Besides a soccer coach he is a security too of Manual Arts High School. He was interviewed in Manual Arts cafeteria at 12:30 on Friday 19 of February 2010.

Affected ah my health ah and social and and. In my health you go stressed cause you think you might lose your job. In social ah ah you don't take your family out because you don't feel it, you minimize a lot entertainment you might have.

ah ah when we try to do fund-raising for equipment is hard for people to help us monetary. They have to limit ah, their economics because of the budget cuts,

ummm to the soccer team, no much just the participation for the people with their monetary to fund-raising.

Most of the schools have been affected because is a poor community low class community.”

No! Why? Cause cause most of the programs are support by donation non-profit organized and most of them are been funded by donation and donation comes from money.

They are not against it is just they are not interested, so the ah teachers parents and students they are people not interested.

Yeah! Cause the players made the best out of themselves to achieve their talent. Because of the economic situation do not lock he soccer players to their best out in the field.”

Anonymous Teacher at Manual Arts

“A Rich Enough Nation”

A teacher in an aerosol smelling environment due to painting outside the classroom. While cleaning up to get ready to go.

There shouldn't be any budget cuts at all
we the wealthiest nation in the world.

We are the wealthiest; we are one
of the wealthiest states.

California state is very wealthy.

Uh, there shouldn't be any...

we are a rich enough nation to have,
a lot of funds for education,
all the way from K. through
University level.

So, I'm totally against
the budget cuts.

(Responding, “What things are taken away with budget cuts?”)

Most of them are social services, uh, for example: (screams are heard from students behind)

reduction in day care facilities;

reduction in services, police servicing;

fire fighting services;

county cleanse; closure of county cleanse;

school-s reduction on, of employees,
for school;

there will be one nurse, instead of two;

less teachers, less support, at school;

less after school programs in school;

part of recreation

services, will be reduced.

That's the impact.

The social services provided
in much needing neighborhoods,

and in our neighborhood alike,

will be severally reduced,

or closed.

(Responding: “Do you think budget cuts are necessary?”)

Yes, but

not in the way they are being done.

Budget cuts need to be done,

let's say, in

our contracts

with corporations and private industries,

(a soft sigh, followed with a pause of two seconds)

and with social services.

(Responding: “Do you think budget cuts can be stopped, by teachers and/or students?”)

Yes,
we need to strike,
and we need to be at the streets,
marching, protesting, and demanding
an end of budget cuts, of the cuts, but
that would take everybody to,
take a little bit of themselves,
and sacrifice something that
we are willing to sacrifice.
That's the only way it's gonna happen,
that the people are willing to choose
sacrifice (a little pause)
you know.
I'm
willing to go on strike,
but my union is not going for that
umm,
and I think that's the only way people,
parents, citizens, residents, in general
to come together, and demand,
the end of budget cuts-s could happen.
But people need to be willing to sacrifice,
you know,
a little bit more,
than they are willing to do, just
from what I've seen so far.

Mr. Cisneros

Teaching Assistant

“Affecting Education”

*He looks like American citizen but he is from the El Salvador. He is a nice person and he like to help at students.
Also he love his job.*

Eventually, budget cuts will create a shortage of teachers. There are also student support programs that will end.

Students will be affected because many governments funded programs that will disappear.

California doesn't have enough funds to support it self. With the LAUSD, there will be a cut in teaching positions as well as administrative.

California doesn't know how to manage its budget. That is the main problem. It is also affecting student education.

California government.

Some teacher might lose their jobs. With the cuts, there are many programs that will end. Support materials are becoming hard to get. An example is field trips.

I fell that the people in charge are not qualified to do their job. It is just politics and who they know.

Teacher cuts, material, students support programs, etc.

We have to star by firing all people in charge in our government. That would be the star. From there, everything else would be a lot easier. We need people that are over qualified to help us get out of this economic hole.

Johnson

M.A.H.S. Security

“America First”

A tall man sitting on the school benches wearing black pants and black sweater, with a big smile in his face.

I think is disgraceful and shameful that we have reconsidered budget cuts that’s what I think.

Yes, everyone has been affected by budget cuts so the entire country.....

Well... obviously I will go straight to the point, as much money do we give to other countries as much we get involved in other countries rewards, spending billions

of dollars of keeping what it say to be our country free...

(Pause)

That money cost us the American people.

(Pointing around him)

We end out playing on the long rum for efforts like that lie this war in Iraq, for example....

(Thinking)

Is going on for 7 years I believe, now we are on Afghanistan...

When you spend billions of dollars and billions of dollars year round, somebody has to pay for it, so we the American citizen end up getting the shortness of the stake, we have to sacrifice.

How about taking care of America first (Louder)

and everybody else second.

Jobs secured? (Louder)

Never not in this country, not in this school district nowhere.

Budget cuts affect not only me as employed but students and their families.

Oh my god (Louder)

Too many public services are affected housing, education everything.

(Second pause, trying to remember something)

I have to take one day off every month without getting pay.

V. Blame

The worker that we interviewed blamed the city council, H.O.R (House of Representatives), and the government for the economy that we have right now. He thinks that we are wasting money on un-massacre things like new streets and roads. The art teacher at Manual Arts High that we interviewed was blaming everybody - the politicians, the government, the people, and the president for the budget cuts because we all vote for dumb propositions.

Ms. Sanchez

Adult School teacher teaches computer class

Hispanic woman in her late 30's average looking Simple green collar shirt sitting on a table.

I have been impacted financially due to the economies crisis. I work in constant worry that I might receive a pink slip at any moment.

I see no change and believe the economic crisis will last About 3 more years.

The economy has affected many of my plans like any future purchases and some of my planned vacations.

I think the future generation will inherit allot of debt if there's No fix to this.

I do not think that college now are affordable for students I believe The precious politicians are responsible for the budget cuts they left a mess and I believe that many other people beside us are affected by the economies does not this single job maintain I have at least there teaching's to maintain me.

My idea of saving money is to cut back on stuff and any leisure expenses.

Joshua Linton

Exposition Park Branch Library

We were outside of the library there was a lot people talking. He is wearing a N.Y. hat, a white t-shirt, black pants. He look like he is in his 25 years.

uh I work for the library uh am massage curler

I organize books. I think it should be the last thing the city should be doing

uh everybody losing jobs right now

The different

uh the probable we get benefit at the library and we get pay

we get pay pretty good amount of money but a let see I don't know

Experience

uh well I have to know the duty of the system which is the way to organize the book

uh uh I have to know compute, and

uh I have to know how to work them

I have to know that

uh I think the irresponsible leader that we have uh the

representative and uh the council

of women and man have been doing

uh get money money they have been using on things that are not necessary for the city and

I believe is there false what is going on right now.

I think the as

as citizen of the city and the state and this country we are

supposed to be educative and go to school read and

we have to writes letters to the representative and we have to
stamp up to the council of women and man
we have to let then know how what we feel and what we want
them to do, because we we vote them
there.

uh the budget cuts I believe is a cause because
I mean..

uh because of irresponsible expending they have been doing of things
the don't need to be fix
uh buying 40 dollars pants
for the council of women and man you know this is expending it
It there false.

I don't thing that

If anything is not going to get worse

uh hopefully if us as citizen uh uh

we stamp up and riot

to the top of the council of women and man but

if we don't stamp up we don't have voice are opinion is nothing is
going to chance

It is a big mafia is a organization is illegal

mafia and they have been expending are money are taxes

Obama

want to do a lot for this country but he have apposition the
representative are again him they don't

want him to do any good to this country uh it he uh if he keep
up the good work and he do what he is

saying he may be good to the change of here and the city.

Marcos

Cafeteria Worker at California Hospital

“It’s On Them”

Latino man with many higher education degrees but employed in any of his fields of study. He replies with long answers, speaking quickly but clearly in fluid Spanish.

The ones in charge of economy is the state and the congress, because they are the ones who approve the amount of money that is going to every different area in the government without their approval no decision is made.

In general the people who are responsible of the economy problem if the greedy people that had made an inadequate use of the money but the government is the one who has the fault and the people who agree with injustice that this country does to other countries.

Society is connected to the economy problem because they have use the society to get money for themselves to keep money in their pockets they use people to their own favor that is how big companies and government works.

This affect all of us and this affect me in all aspects mainly at work because if there if no work there is no money and if there is no enough money I can’t pay my debts

My situation is regular we are no able to spend the money in what I want and have to save money all the time to pay my bills and all I need

I think everything is going to get better but, it never will be the same there is going to be a balance now what happen is that other countries are awakening and knowing that some of the problems they have before where cause of U.S intervention this countries are not going to let that happen again countries are going through a evolution they are becoming stronger enough to help their own people.

If we want to do something to better out situation we have to save money to think in long terms but the major change we have to make is the government and congress we have to change how they make decisions so we can have a government who work for the people not the people for the government.

Jeremy Abraham Davidson

Art Teacher at the Manual Arts High School

“Made It Very Clear”

A tall skinny young man, Caucasian, wearing glasses, sitting on a steel chair, old desk, folder with a list of the students in the class on his right-hand side. He is in his classroom with the student's paintings all around him; most of the students are doing their work.

Well...I think that we have incompetent politicians who are not doing their jobs and that are why we have budget cuts and we have citizens who are irresponsible and who don't vote and so we have a combination of people (laughter due to the knowing that I am recording him, then quickly gets back into his answer) and citizens who are not making sure the politicians are doing their jobs to balance the budget and... we have citizens who keep voting for these propositions that earmark money for certain things, so its hard to balance your budget we you have all of these different laws and propositions clucking money from the budget, then you have the politicians, the democrats, and the republicans in Sacramento who aren't doing their job. So we have now a bankrupted state.

Well...umm...I am told my salary is going to be cut 12% so it will then mean I take home less money...umm...

Well, the citizens, the voters, as well as the politicians so everybody are to blame.

Because California has a completely dysfunctional political system that doesn't work

Yes...and the politicians and (speaking loudly into the recorder) people of California are selfish and self-centered and only think about themselves and not other people!!...umm... so nobody really wants to make any sacrifices to solve the problem they always think something after.

(speaking loudly into the recorder) our teachers are never SECURE; our jobs can always be cut!!!

Of course I am!

I have no children, I do not want any children, and when I get home after school I don't wanna see any children. So it is not affecting my child's education, but it will be affecting all of your education. (Made it very clear he didn't want any children)

You and your child's education because your class size will be bigger and the teacher will be fired you will have less materials and supplies...umm...college tuition fees will have to be raised. So it's going to affect...umm...the middle-poor and middle class the most especially those who need public assistance for education, for housing things like that.

Well, I am a teacher. So I'm earning just above poverty level. I am middle income, so I'm middle class.

Umm...I don't have a family.

Umm...Well I'm not married to either man or woman. So what is it taking away from me.

Umm...I do though, but I'm the only one who lives in California, that's why I live in California to get away from my family, but they are not affected by budget cuts in California because they live in another state. So what are the things are taking away from me. Well things like street repair aren't being done as much because there isn't as much money. So there are more potholes

VI. Families

Before budget cuts, Juan Carlo C. worked 5 days per week and was able to feed his family properly, but because of the budget cuts he now works once a week, his family needs money and food and it is really hard for him to struggle through this.

Karina Reyes

Waitress

“We can help by understand”

Karina is a worker Latina woman who works along with his husband in order to feed their children

Well..

because of budget in California,

many people that worked here before were fired

by the manager so more work was given to me....[laughs for a short moment]

yes, my family is being affected by this economy cuz my husband and I are

always stressed and tired and huh....

my children keep on telling me that there is too many students in

their classroom and that....

uhh.. they have a hard time concentrating.

Of course, the future of my children will always be in danger cuz

they are not learning properly you know... how can they be successful if the

teacher does not pay them the attention that should be given to them.

I think that the management of our money is not being used wisely..

the government spends money on things that are not really crucial nor important...

you know..

the only way to help this economy is huh.... and guess that... by working hard and understanding that is not only us the one that are suffering but... that there is other people that is equally suffering....

the economy is not always gonna be so bad.... is it?

Sandra Gonzalez

Community Parent

“The Future of Our children in the budget cuts’ Hands”

Latina with long curly brown hair and 35 Years old. In her house with a strong but calm voice.

The budget cut affect me when the district fire the teachers Because there are lot of students in classes and the teachers Do not pay attention to each individual student because the Classes are too big.

This is something that the government has to do, I mean they are the ones that make and enforce the laws, and this is not something that the civilians should do.

First of all our children would not have the education they are supposed to have and...In the future there would not be enough jobs for all the students that are going to college or that they drop off because they are forced to go and work...There would be a lot of violence.

If it continues like this yes, because is our children’s future that is going to be affected

I would not blame any body because the situation that we are passing through is too difficult mm...So it’s no body’s fault. We should look for a solution instead of being blaming people.

The government should... not do this budget cuts because teachers are the ones that are teaching our children the skills they need because they are the future of this country.

The government should make a plan to see if they could hire the teachers that do not have a job right now.

This is something that the government has to do, I mean they are the ones that make and enforce the laws, and this is not something that the civilians should do.

Yes it does affect me because right now I am not working, because at first my manager started to give me fewer hours than I regularly used to work. My husband is with out a job...I mean what we can do if the budget cuts are affecting us.

With God help we could overcome from all this because he is the one that could help us with this entire situation.

Juan Carlos Castillo

Builder

He is a poor man who support his family and now he suffering the consequences of " budget cuts", because in this moment he does not have a job to support his family.

The budget cuts affect me and especially my family because years ago, I had a good job and my family always had food on the table.

But now with the bad economy the things are different .

so I feel sad,

Because I don't know what to do with this problem to affect my family.

I don't have money to pay the rent of my apartment

so my family need many stuffs to survive in this bad crises.

I'm working very hard when sometimes I find a job.

I believe that the budget cuts are affecting many things,

because choosing between education, health-care, prisons, park, social services, and the like leaves no easy answer.

Also these cuts affecting us.

Anyway.

In this time is very complicate for the poor people like me.

But I have hope that this situation or problem to be better for us will out.

Anonymous Employee at Manual Arts

We have so many budget cuts because the government wasting money in war and in jells instead in education and because we are giving away billions of money to countries for war.

I think we could not fix this because people don't collaborate and we don't have the power I guess.

Budget cuts have affected me and not only me it has affected all of us.

Yes I have been affected by budget cuts, I have been given days out and they don't pay me and even fire me.

We could fix this problem by protesting letting people to know What's happening in our community.

I am worried about budget cuts because I know that what I have today I may not have it tomorrow.

No my job is not secure because all the money the government gives away is making the budget cuts and like I don't have many years in this job they could fire me very easily.