Abstract: My grandpa was born in Mexico and came to the US for the given opportunity it has made in the year 1965 when Cesar Chavez has started the organization of NFWA (National Farm workers Association). It’s first ever movement to help undocumented Hispanics to gave rights as a fieldworker. The grape boycott that lasted from 1965 to 1970 was significant to my grandpa and all farm workers because it changed his life. My grandpa’s experience in the boycott was hard but worth it to have his rights as a farm worker. He risked his job to fight for his rights and forget he had a family to support. After, my grandpa fought with the UFW and the boycott and got his rights he wanted for the rest of the family to come to America because it was the start of a better life.

Key words: Cesar Chavez, NFWA (National Farm Workers Association), civil rights, American Dream, farm workers, poor working conditions, grape boycott, Hispanics, UFW, immigrant, unions,

In the history of America there have been many changes throughout our history and these changes not only were in favor with the Americans, but other races. The history of racism has changed after WWII because many immigrants who decided to come to the US for the opportunity it gave; it had given what is America now. Throughout the period that immigrants were given the “opportunity” to have rights with no restrictions; it has changed now because the government changed the border laws, its security, and the legal rights for the immigrant to be in the country of opportunity. And today’s societies there are illegal immigrants who are fighting for becoming a citizen of America and not only for the rights as a worker.

However, before America has changed its laws and security for immigrants, my grandpa was part of America being a land of opportunity. My grandpa was born in Mexico and came to the US for the given opportunity it has made in the year 1965 when Cesar Chavez has started the organization of NFWA (National Farm workers Association). It’s first ever movement to help undocumented Hispanics to gave rights as a fieldworker. This movement helped the farm workers because when America was in depression the immigrant
has come to find work. When, my grandpa came to the US the work was seasonal, but important to my grandpa and America. My grandpa worked in the fields and was the first person to step on American soil in his family. My grandpa worked in the grapes because it was the important boycott for the immigrants to have rights to work, better wages, and civil rights.

When my grandpa came to the US in 1965 the laws of being a farm worker wasn’t as strict as the past years when immigrants had rights to come in and out of the country with the exception to go only for seasonal work. My grandpa worked for low wages, bad safety problems, and the unfairness of the civil rights. The year that my grandpa heard of America as the country of “opportunity”, he didn’t thought of it twice if he should come to America or not. It took him 2 years to raise money of his work in Mexico to get across the border. He had to leave his family of 11 children and a single mother in Mexico so he could come to the US. It was hard for him to leave but it was the opportunity he wanted. When he finally came he had seen, what they said about the promising “American Dream,” wasn’t as he thought it was. The working conditions were madness because they were treated like machines. The poor working conditions he had been the working hours and days and the health conditions. He has seen how the farm workers would get sprayed on by the planes that are fertilizing to kill the insects to get sick and would never return again and already have a new worker taking his place. The wages he got was burly enough to feed his family in Mexico. He had gone many days without eating a regularly meal to feed because he had to feed his family in Mexico. However, the grape boycott that lasted from 1965 to 1970 was significant to my grandpa and all farm workers because it changed his life and his family of children and nephews.
The grape boycott and other boycotts were a huge impact for the Hispanics because it has changed their working conditions and civil rights. The one who led this movement for the farm workers and fighting for their rights was Cesar Chavez because he was the reason why now Hispanics have rights to working and civil. The UFW is the organization that Cesar Chavez held when he was fighting for the farm workers rights. The UFW fought for the working conditions. The conditions that were fought were the poor hours and days, low wages, work safety, and the protection of the union. My grandpa’s experience in the boycott was hard but worth it to have his rights as a farm worker. He risked his job to fight for his rights and forget he had a family to support. My grandpa had talked to my grandma that he wont be sending any money home because he was going to be in strike for their rights and my grandma understood. The older children of my grandpa understood as well after being told and worked at young age to support the family. However, his experience in the boycott and having a leader as Cesar Chavez has showed him that everything is possible if we really fight for it without violence and can’t give up. This movement and strike has become significant to the American history because it was a non-violence strike. However, there was some violence in the movement by the police but the farm workers and who ever followed Cesar Chaves believed in not fighting back with violence. The UFW has supported the farm workers from 1965-1970 and again during the 1988s where he repeated the fast as in 1972. The farm workers persistence, hard work, faith and willingness to sacrifice have made them achieve what they wanted when they came to America. After, my grandpa fought with the UFW and the boycott and got his rights he wanted for the rest of the family to come to America because it was the start of a better life. My whole family came in 1991 after my grandpa and my dad’s brothers had settled in America.
After all the family of my grandpa had came to America, including our family. We have experienced the difference working conditions and rights. However, coming to America a few of my grandpa’s children, including my dad, never went to school and worked since kids in Mexico. Only a few had made it thru school and got their diplomas but the majority didn’t go to school. However, now with the nephews have gone to school and have their diplomas or are going to school to take advantage of the education that there given because the changes in the law. In today’s society, work has become difficult for the Hispanics because of background check, immigration, and being an illegal immigrant. The laws against illegal immigrants have made more difficult to reach our American Dream. Each law that is made towards the illegal immigrants makes us to be a step back again and can’t reach for what were fighting for.

The future of America towards immigrants who come to America is because the opportunity that America offers. America now treats illegal immigrants as criminals when all we seek is a better life. The rights of illegal immigrants in the years of my grandpa and now have changed drastically. However, the change towards illegal immigrants and having rights isn’t going to change like in the same years Cesar Chavez has fought for but more. However, today’s society there are programs who helps illegal immigrants to reach their American Dream. The programs and unions have helped the Hispanic community to reach the education that they are seeking and a better life. Nevertheless, the Hispanic community and illegal immigrants aren’t giving up like Cesar Chavez didn’t give up fighting for the farm workers and Hispanic rights. And all immigrants that have passed through the same situation as now with the strictness of laws against our dreams and hopes won’t give up till we reach
the same goal as in the farm worker’s movement to have the same rights like any other person in America.