

Topic: Family Coming Together

Abstract: Every year about 12 to 15 times my family and I come together as a big happy family. It's one of the biggest traditions we have. We come together and have lots of food, games, and just have fun as a big family. No matter what age we are, we all participate on what's happening or going on. There is no one that is left out. We are a big loving strong family that gets together and has fun as one. And also building stronger family relationships and staying close with one another.

Key Words: Family love, traditions, come together, growing together and becoming close, great food, gathering, food, fun games, football, old games, excitement.

Ethnic Designation: Mexican

Cultural Category: Social practice/gathering: Family Reunion

Cultural Narrative Essay

Ever sense I was little boy, my whole family, aunts, uncles, grandparents, cousins, and close family friends always got together many times. But sense I was so little I couldn't really tell if it was for parties or for just gatherings or for barbeques or whatever else it could have been. Even though I couldn't really make out why we always came together, they were always a blast. It was always great to see everyone together just having so much, and eating great food and just simply being one big happy family. I realized as I got older that we didn't all come together so much because of the great food everyone brought, or for all the games we played, or just to have fun, even though all those things are great as well. It was simply because we loved

are family, are we wanted to stay as close to are whole family as possible, and to stay in touch. Have fun with each other, and let the kids grow together and become close. And we just have so much fun as a family, no matter what we do. Family is a big part of my life and my whole family's life. Family always comes first. Family love to us is the strongest love in the world.

We big family and I probably get together about 12 to 15 times a year. Whether it's at a family member's house or a big park or a camp site, but usually it's at a big park somewhere. One of the traditions we do, we have pot lucks, and every family relative brings a different dish of food. It could range from salad, chicken, vegetables, and so on. Some family members bring drinks as well. The cool thing about our family gatherings is that, the event coordinator picks the next family member to hold the next family event. It makes it cool but also interesting, cause u never know where the next event is going to be held, or what games they are going to have at the event or anything.

One of the biggest traditions we have while we're at a family event, is the raider niner football game. My family is very big and we have more than enough people to play a massive football game. We call it the raider niner game because one day when I was six, my father and his brother Joey got into an argument about what professional football team was better. Either the Oakland Raiders or the San Francisco 49ers. My dad was the raider fan and my uncle Joey was the niner fan. They both finally couldn't take the arguing any longer. So they decided to split up all men, boys, into two separate teams depending on which team you liked. Who ever won the game either the raiders or ninner, the losing team couldn't talk crap about the winning teams team and say they were better than their team till the next game. Also all the girls and woman sit around on their lawn chairs around the game and cheer everyone on, but also bet on whose going to win. My team which is the raider team has one for the last two years. There's also many other

fun games we play like sack races, basketball, and huge water balloon fights. I can remember one time we had close to one thousand water balloons! It was the funniest water fight I have ever had. The great things about the water balloon fights is that any can start it, either by hitting someone when there not looking or rushing someone or clearly by surprise, so you never know when the water fight is going to begin. We only have one rule. Don't ever hit a grandparent with a water balloon unless they are clearly playing to. Cause you will get yelled at, a lot.

I would have to say that the food is probably the best part! We eat so much food. And everything is homemade cooking. All the men cook the chicken, tri tip, and ribs while they drink there beer. They have the most interesting conversations about anything and everything. The woman hang around close to the tables and were all the food, drinks, and chairs are. The grandma's, aunts, and mothers but together the salads, potato salads, vegetables, chips, dip, but also learning about new recipes and new things to make and they do their girl talk. While all the food is being prepared and being made all the younger kids just run around and play. The older kids just sit around, hang out and talk. I would say the best thing that I like to eat is my dad's barbeque chicken, and my great grandma's potato salad. It's so delicious, it never gets old.

After everyone is done eating and had some time to do whatever for awhile. The whole family puts all the chairs into a huge circle. Everyone writes there name on a index card, and puts it into someone's hat. Whose name you pick out of the hat, that's whose chair you have to sit in. Then the host supplies the bob-it. Bob-It is a kind of old game that tell you what to touch on the Bob-It and in what order you touch them in, and you keep passing it around. It's a very fun game when you have a lot of people to play and everyone's very into it. I would say we probably have either the biggest or one of the biggest games of Bob-It ever. It's really funny watching the drunken family members to trying to play.

We come together a lot every year to be with each other, stay close to one another. Build new family relationships and stronger ones. We like to stay close to the ones we love and keep are family love strong. Family to my family means so much that its really indefinable or explainable, it's all in your heart. Family to me is the people I want by my side wherever I go, and people that I love dearly and care for. My family means so much to me that I can't even explain it. You can't really what your family means to you or define family because your family is your family. You know in your heat what your family is, and also what they mean to you. It doesn't really require words; it's all in your heart. There's a saying that my grandfather always say, " Never let go or forget about your family, because family will never let go or forget you".