

The background of the entire image is a light blue color. Scattered around the central white speech bubble are numerous stylized, colorful illustrations of people of various ethnicities, ages, and genders. They are depicted in various dynamic poses, some dancing, some walking, and some standing. The clothing is diverse, including t-shirts, sweaters, jackets, dresses, and overalls. The overall style is modern and artistic.

# Humans of West Oak

8th Grade ComArts  
Project

# How this Project Came to Be...



Brandon Stanton - created the original Facebook page and website *Humans of New York*. It started as a project taking 10,000 photographs of the people of New York, now it is a world-wide phenomenon of people telling their stories.

The 8th-grade students were given an opportunity to do this exact same project here at West Oak. Speaking and Listening is an area of struggle in ComArts. As a way to cover these standards and get the students engaged why not have them do this same concept? They went out and interviewed 3 people - someone in the school, someone from their home life, and anyone else they felt was important to them.

What you will see is just a small taste of their hard work, effort, and amazing interview skills!

[Humans of West Oak Website](#)

# At the end of every unit, students are asked reflect on how they felt things went.

Here are some of the questions:

- What is one specific thing you are taking away from the Humans of West Oak Unit?
- How do you think what you learned in this unit will transfer to other classes?
- What is something that you enjoyed in this unit? Explain why.
- What was something you disliked about this unit? Explain why.
- If you could do this unit over again, what would you do differently? Explain why.
- What is something you still need to work on or improve upon?
- What can Mrs. Salzman do differently with this unit? Explain why.





Let's Hear  
from the  
Students!



## Mikaela 'Shane' Torres



"When I was five years old I started living with my aunt so she could send me to school. My parents had a tough time raising four children. My aunt and her family were nice to me, but I had my struggles too...being far away from home and no parents to take care of me on a daily basis. But I turned out fine, being able to graduate from college. I worked part time at McDonald's to earn my extra money while in college. I learned a lot from my experiences in life. And now that I'm a mom myself, I realized it must have been a hard decision for my parents to let go of me so that I can have a better future."

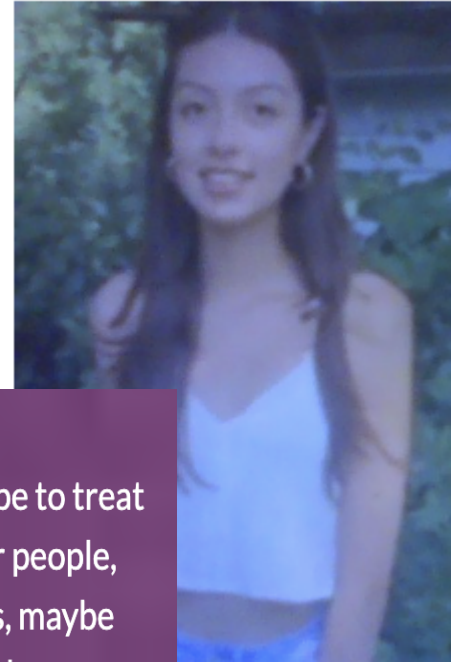




“I want my students to remember that I was able to make history interesting for them and as they get older that they think about their choices and how important they are to being part of this country .”



# Yareli Bollas

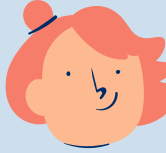


“A couple of the most important lessons I've learned in life would have to be to treat others the way you want to be treated and have empathy towards other people, because you never know what they could be going through. Who knows, maybe someday you'll experience what they are going through and you'll notice how you wish you could have treated them better. Another important lesson that I learned in life is sometimes you have to be selfish because it could benefit you.”





# Aaliyah Jones



“I would have to say the person with the biggest influence on my life would be my grandmother. She’s always got it and understood. She had a lot of wisdom and knew when to be strict and when to let loose a little.”



Based on the success of this unit, it is something that will be done each year in 8th grade. The students had a great time getting out of the classroom and speaking to different people, as well as telling their own stories to those who would listen.

In addition to my class, in 8th grade, art students do a portrait grid drawing. A grid drawing allows students to improve their accuracy. They learn how draw realistic facial features using different gradients of charcoal or different shades of colored pencils. Students chose a person that was influential in their life. (family member, friend, someone who is famous, etc)

If the student was in Mrs. Salzman's class they chose between the three people that they interviewed.



A vibrant and diverse collection of stylized human figures in various poses and outfits, scattered around a central light blue speech bubble. The figures include men and women of different ethnicities, wearing a variety of clothing such as sweaters, jackets, dresses, and athletic wear. Some are walking, some are dancing, and some are in celebratory poses. The overall style is flat and colorful, with a focus on human diversity and positivity.

Thank  
you!