

Cause and Effect Analysis  
“Why and When We Speak Spanish in Public”  
p. 506-508

1. Marquez develops her essay using a specific structure. In a well-developed paragraph, explain Marquez’s organizational structure. Provide at least two specific examples from the essay to support your explanation.
  
2. In a well-developed paragraph, evaluate Marquez’s use of evidence. Why does Marquez cite immigrants from Poland, Finland, Italy, and “wherever else” (10)? Is this evidence sufficient to justify her claim that it’s okay for her family to speak their native language in public? Why or why not? Then provide specific examples of evidence that would be more effective in supporting her claim.
  
3. Marquez makes a point of saying that immigrants from Latin America have “fought for this country” and “participated fully in this nation’s democracy by voting, holding political office, and paying taxes” (11). In a well-developed paragraph, analyze the potential objection Marquez is anticipating regarding her claim? Evaluate the effectiveness of this strategy?

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In Myriam Marquez's article *Why And When We Speak Spanish In Public*, the main theme is that one should not change their language just because others can't speak and understand it. As shown in throughout the article. First Marquez explains why non-Spanish speaking individuals many take offence to her and her parents talking in their native tongue. Even going as far as saying that they might get the feeling that they are talking about them, which is just them being sensitive. Then Marquez uncovers why she is speaking in Spanish, "respect" and "cultural roots." She uses respect to explain that even though her family has been in the US for forty years they still keep it a priority to stay in tune with their origin. Marquez explains, "Let me explain why we haven't adopted English as our official family language. For me and most of the bilingual people I know, it's a matter of respect for our parents and comfort in our cultural roots (507)." Even giving examples of other ethnic groups, she writes, "Pennsylvania even provided voting ballots written in German during much of the 1800s for those who weren't fluent in English (507)." She is able to put in clear and understandable terms that she is comfortable with where she is from and that it's not just her that thinks and acts this way. Many immigrants didn't give up the native tongue so easily. She says, "Throughout this nation's history, most immigrants - whether from Poland or Finland or Italy or wherever else - kept their language through the first generation and, often, the second (507)." Marquez brings up a valid point, " From its inception, this country was careful not to promote a government-mandated official language." (507). She provides two key points that support her argument. Seeing that she is a first generation child it would be difficult for her to completely adopt English and not know Spanish. She wouldn't be able to communicate with her children

very easily with her family. Second our forefathers made it a point not to have a national language for many reasons. They wanted to expand and grow and they wanted to gather many different immigrants to build in population. This is how Marquez used the effects before the cause, and how she presented her counter argument.

In Myriam Marquez's article *Why And When We Speak Spanish In Public*, she uses evidence to support her claim that people think it is rude to speak Spanish in public, but other immigrants can speak their native tongue as long as it is not Spanish. She states, "Throughout this nation's history, most immigrants - whether from Poland or Finland or Italy or wherever else - kept their language through the first generation and, often, the second." (507). All of these different countries have one major key in common, they don't speak Spanish. She uses the fact that Latin Americans have fought in wars, voted, ran and have held political offices, and paid taxes, yet they have to watch their own children and grandchildren become so "American" they rather speak English than Spanish (507) to justify her evidence. Marquez makes the point that just because she is a bilingual doesn't mean she will be rude and keep speaking Spanish when a person who only speaks English is around. Her and her parents will switch to English and make that acquaintance feel welcome into the conversation (507). Marquez will not disrespect anyone that is not fluent in her native tongue as long as they don't disrespect hers.

In *Why And When We Speak Spanish In Public*, Myriam Marquez is anticipating the regard to Latin Americans patriotism. To establish some credibility she gives us a time frame of how long her parents, the ones that moved to the US from a Spanish speaking country, have been speaking English. Marquez proclaims. "...my family has lived in the United States for forty years and that my parents do understand English and speak it...(507). Marquez is about to establish credibility for not just herself but her parents as well. This rolls into her story and the reason why she talks in her native tongue because it is out of respect for her parents and comforting her cultural roots (507). She then continues to provide her counter argument with strong points like, "From its inception, this country was careful not to promote a government-mandated official language." (507). Marquez doesn't just use the intentions of our founding fathers to her advantage, but also hints toward one of her first amendment rights, the freedom of speech. She is able to effectively strategize and anticipate any counter that would come against her claim.