

Appendix B:

Cards with information about each role for the role play.

Dolores Huerta: In 1966, Huerta wanted to move to Delano, CA (3 hours and 15 minutes south from Stockton, CA, where she was living at the time) with Cesar Chavez to create the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA) and build a movement of farm workers. She thought that it would hamper the movement if she remained in Stockton working at the Community Service Organization (CSO). Yet, as a recently divorced, pregnant, mother of six, with no other means of support, Huerta knew that she needed at least a modest income to survive, which the CSO provided. Should she stay at an organization that wouldn't allow her to do the type of community organizing she saw as crucial in order to support her family, or should she go with Chavez to Delano? And if she stayed in Stockton at the CSO, how long should she remain? At what point should she throw herself fully into the movement – or shouldn't she because of her domestic and family responsibilities? Discuss these questions among yourself. Prepare an opening statement explaining that you have invited these guests to your dinner table to discuss whether or not you should move to Delano, CA with Chavez to build the NFWA. Clarify your thinking on the matter.

Alicia Chavez Fernandez (Huerta's Mother): Like her daughter, Alicia Chavez Fernandez was a complicated woman. Her parents were born in New Mexico, yet she married a Mexican immigrant. Their relationship was difficult, and they divorced when Huerta was a toddler. With the help of her father, Fernandez moved Huerta and her two brothers first to Las Vegas, NM and then to a working class, racially integrated neighborhood in Stockton, CA, where they had family. Fernandez raised her children as a single mother in an egalitarian home. Initially, she made ends meet by waitressing and working in a cannery, but later owned and managed a restaurant and a hotel. She re-married three times, with the last marriage lasting until her death. Huerta and she were close as adults, both were committed to social activism, and she helped her daughter to care for her children when Huerta went to school and worked. How would she have advised her daughter?

Juan Fernandez (Huerta's Father): Juan Fernandez, Huerta's father, shared his daughter's commitment to social justice. After he and his wife divorced when Huerta was a toddler, Juan Fernandez remained in New Mexico where he struggled to make a living as a migrant laborer and coal miner. He went on to become an influential labor leader and, eventually, to serve in the New Mexico state legislature. Huerta maintained a relationship with her father, although they only saw one another occasionally, and he blamed her for the failures of her two marriages and for not caring appropriately for her children. Would he have encouraged his daughter to throw herself fully into *la causa*, the cause, or told her to keep her focus on her growing family, while building the NFWA on the side?

A farm worker living in Stockton, CA: Imagine that this farm worker, let's call him Jose, first met Dolores Huerta when one of his children briefly had her as a teacher in 1955. Five years later the two reconnected when Jose began registering voters in Stockton's Chicano community with an eye toward the election of Senator John F. Kennedy to the presidency. Since then, in addition to his responsibilities as a father of six children and as a farm laborer, Jose has actively participated in the Community Service Organization (CSO), working alongside Huerta, Cesar Chavez, and Fred Ross to fight for better work conditions for farm laborers, including higher pay, shorter hours, and better living conditions in migrant camps. He has also worked with local officials to create laws that would counter discrimination in restaurants and movie theaters and also to counter police brutality. Would Jose encourage Huerta to stay in Stockton to continue working for the local community, while building the NFWA on the side, or would he try to convince her to take on the broader issue of building a diverse alliance among farm workers?

Cesar Chavez (co-founder of the NFWA): Chavez was a Mexican-American farm worker, labor organizer, and civil rights activist. In 1927, he was born in San Louis, Arizona where his parents owned a farm and a store. They lost both in the Great Depression, and, like many of his peers, Chavez moved west to California to support his family as a farm laborer. Like Huerta, Chavez was drawn into the (Community Service Organization (CSO) and community organizing by Fred Ross. He met Huerta through his work there, and they became longstanding allies in a struggle to build a farm workers union. Chavez, however, became frustrated with Ross and the CSO because of their hesitation to take on a struggle that would pit illegal immigrants, non-English speakers from a range of countries, and migrant workers whom employers could easily replace against the Goliath of the agricultural industries. Chavez, who also had a large family (he would eventually have eight children) chose to uproot his family, forego the modest salary he was earning at CSO to move to Delano and build the NFWA. If you were Chavez, would you try to convince Huerta to go with you immediately to Delano to build the movement, or would you encourage her to stay in Stockton with CSO? If you tried to convince her of the latter, for how long would you say she should stay?

Fred Ross (Huerta's boss): Ross was born in 1910 in San Francisco and grew up in Los Angeles. He planned to teach, but became a caseworker when he couldn't find a job because of the Great Depression. He worked at the camp that John Steinbeck used as a model for his *Grapes of Wrath* encouraging migrant workers to unionize and then helped Japanese-American internees to find jobs and housing after their relocation. He was strongly influenced by Chicago-based activist Saul Alinsky. Using his approach to community activism, Ross founded the Community Service Organization (CSO) and created 22 chapters of the organization throughout California. Along the way, Ross recruited both Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta. They led the CSO's efforts to organize voter registration drives, advocate for better public services, promote anti-discrimination legislation, and counter police brutality. Ross, however, was hesitant to take on the issue of organizing farm workers. He was concerned about taking on a struggle that would pit illegal immigrants, non-English speakers from a range of countries, and migrant workers whom employers could easily replace, against the Goliath of the agricultural industries. Would he try to convince Huerta to stay at the CSO to continue their work together or would he have encouraged her to take a risk for the cause she believed in?

Huerta's eldest daughter: Huerta's eldest daughter was 10 year old at the time. What would she have wanted for herself, her siblings, her mom, and her broader family? Would she have wanted to stay in Delano where her grandmother, friends, and extended family lived? Would she have been concerned about her mom leaving the family regularly to be in Delano (3 hours and 15 minutes away) for her work there? What would she have thought of the movement to organize farm laborers? Would she have been committed to that cause like her mother, or would she have seen it as an unfair pull on her mother's time? Might she have been concerned about the financial consequences of this move as well and its family implications?