

DOCS 4 : GROUPWORK – Doc F

Prepare an oral presentation of the document you have been assigned

“[T]he vast majority of Puerto Ricans do not want to separate themselves politically from the United States,” wrote Pantojas García, “but they consistently affirm their cultural identity as different from that of Americans.”

This is one of the concerns people express about statehood for Puerto Rico.

- 5 Sure, the economic benefits are obvious and the question of justice and equal rights is compelling, but many Puerto Ricans on the Island and in the states worry about a loss of Puerto Rican identity.

We might compare the experience of Puerto Rico with that of Texas, a state which was once owned by Mexico, declared its independence and functioned as a nation for a while, and then became a state. Texans today are very proud of their identity as Texans. They warn, “Don’t mess with Texas.” Have they been able to keep their sense of nationhood along with their statehood? [...]

- 15 Texas remembers its Hispanic roots and honors its indigenous people, but Texans also remember the Alamo and schoolchildren sing “Deep in the Heart of Texas.” [...]

Puerto Rico also celebrates its history and cultural heritage, glorying in its own music, dance, food, art, and — like the *Tejanos* of Texas — its own variety of Spanish as well as a recognizable local sound in English. [...]

- 25 Texas, then, has a high degree of state pride and confidence even as Texans show a strong preference for statehood. Puerto Rico’s nationalism and love for the Island need not be connected with a desire for independence. The same harmony Texas shows between Texas pride and loyalty to the U.S. can work well for Puerto Rico.



Puerto Rico Report, December 2024

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