

Topic : Puerto Rico, the 51st state ?
AXE 6: English-speaking areas of America

KEY QUESTION: How do Puerto Ricans live between their island and the USA?
How does Puerto Rico's ambiguous status shape the lives, identities and political choices of Puerto Ricans on the island and on the mainland?

LESSON 2

An island of contrasts

Key question : Why is Puerto Rico often described as an island of contrasts?

Part 1 : Speaking

Work in pairs. You are in charge of one photo.

1. Describe your picture:

- What can you see?
- Where is it?
- What colours stand out?
- What impression does it give?

2. Compare and contrast the two pictures using: (highlighting the topic)

- both pictures...
- whereas...
- unlike...
- however...
- on the one hand / on the other hand...

Pair 1 :



❶ The Colors of Old San Juan, 4 August 2016
Brad Clinesmith from Wilkes-Barre, PA, USA

❷ Skyline of San Juan's Central Business District, also known as Hato Rey, or "The Golden Mile".
11 December 2007
by M gonzalez at English Wikipedia



Pair 2 :



❶ Individual Investors
Incentive
[https://
mansionrealtygroup.com/
tax-benefits-act-60/](https://mansionrealtygroup.com/tax-benefits-act-60/)



❷ area : La Perla, Old San Juan, Puerto Rico

Pair 3 :



❶ *Legacy*
Progress High
School (Brooklyn
2014)



❷ Illustration by
Kagan Mcleod

Part 2 : Listening and speaking

Watch the video. Which elements from the pictures are mentioned or shown? Add new information about Puerto Rico.

https://www.instagram.com/reels/DU_WwMOD-hX/

Part 3 : Speaking

<https://vimeo.com/423964209/94ed20c7e1>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8EOxtY3M6Co>

Before the video

Culture Tip

The Jones-Shafroth Act was signed on March 2, 1917 by President Wilson. Under this act Puerto Ricans were granted US citizenship (with limitations). In October 1950, President Truman signed the Puerto Rico Commonwealth Bill, which enabled the people of the island to establish their own constitution.

1- Match these words with their definition.

Word	Definition
Statehood	• A person who legally belongs to a country
Administration	• A self-governing US territory
Stand by	• In the mainland USA
Commonwealth	• The people who are in government
Stateside	• Be ready to help/do something
Citizen	• Being a state in a nation such as the USA

2. Listen and compare and contrast Puerto Rico and American states

Similarities between Puerto Rico and any other American states	Differences between Puerto Rico and any other American states

3- Watch the first part of the video and sum up the three presidents' opinions on Puerto Rico :

Ronald Reagan - George Bush - Barack Obama

4- You are a journalist. Use the following words to write a paragraph on Puerto Rico :

special status – state – federal – ignore – army – taxes – political representation – governor

Word Spot

diaspora /daɪəˈspɒrə/
territory
waves of immigration
federal: central government
political
economic
double-edged: paradoxical
overjoyed: thrilled
settle: make home
emigrate

advocate: recommend
embrace /ɪmˈbreɪs/: adopt
march: demonstrate
cast a ballot: vote
give full support
take sth for granted:
automatically admit as true
or normal
praise / ˈhɒnər one's culture
keep one's word

