

Foodways Literacies Assignment: Photo-Essay Review

Prompt: For this assignment, you are to compose a photo-essay reviewing a local Mexican restaurant, following the particular dish you have been researching. Using the models of reviews we have read in class, you must also engage the global perspective of Pilcher's *Planet Taco* with the national context of Arellano's *Taco USA* tied to local responses and varieties of Mexican food. Your piece must tell a story and capture aspects of taste and emotion connected to food literacies and the location. The foodways narratives of the Southern Foodways Alliance archive are demonstrative in this respect and models to emulate. Your photos should also tell a story that gives voice to flavors.

You must also include five translations of words from Spanish, and describe the roots of words, making note of indigenous loanwords. The text should include 6–8 photographs embedded within the body of the blog post, as well as captions. The text must be 1,200 words.

Note: Students publish these texts as blogs, which are linked to a class site that archives the original ethnographic research into the foodways as well the hashtag #tacoliteracy across social media platforms. These digital archives record the growing Latino communities of the South and the issues these communities face told through the stories about food. From this assignment, students turn to researching reviews for the restaurants they visit on platforms such as Yelp and Facebook. Students offer their own reviews and evaluations in these spaces, as well as images they collect. To finish the term, students return to local communities to conduct oral histories from individuals in the community, exploring larger issues of affect and community literacy practices.