



Undocumented Student Media Recommendations

EdTrust-Tennessee and its partners have gathered a list of different types of media that stakeholders in the undocumented student community can utilize to learn more. Each recommendation has an intersection to undocumented students and their experiences.

Books:

[*The Undocumented Americans*](#) by Karla Cornejo Villavicencio

One of the first undocumented immigrants to graduate from Harvard reveals the hidden lives of her fellow undocumented Americans in this deeply personal and groundbreaking portrait of a nation.

[*Dear America: Notes of an Undocumented Citizen*](#) by Jose Antonio Vargas

Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Jose Antonio Vargas, called “the most famous undocumented immigrant in America,” tackles one of the defining issues of our time in this explosive and deeply personal call to arms.

[*In the Country We Love: My Family Divided*](#) by Diane Guerrero, Michelle Burford

The star of *Orange is the New Black* and *Jane the Virgin* presents her personal story of the real plight of undocumented immigrants in this country.

[*I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*](#) by Erika L. Sánchez

Follows the journey of Julia, the second daughter of Mexican immigrants, as she navigates living up to her family’s expectations after the passing of her perfect older sister, Olga.

[*My \(Underground\) American Dream: My True Story as an Undocumented Immigrant Who Became a Wall Street Executive*](#) by Julissa Arce

For an undocumented immigrant, what is the true cost of the American Dream? Julissa Arce shares her story in a riveting memoir.

[*Just Like Us: The True Story of Four Mexican Girls Coming of Age in America*](#) by Helen Thorpe

Written by a gifted journalist, a powerful account of four young Mexican women coming of age in Denver—two of whom have legal documentation, two of whom who don’t— and the challenges they face as they attempt to pursue the American dream.

[*You Sound Like a White Girl: The Case for Rejecting Assimilation*](#) by Julissa Arce



Nationally bestselling author Julissa Arce beautifully interweaves her own experiences with cultural commentary to dispel the myth that assimilation leads to happiness and belonging for immigrants in America, and instead calls for a celebration of our uniqueness, our origins, our heritage, and the beauty of the differences that actually make us Americans.

[For Brown Girls with Sharp Edges and Tender Hearts: A Love Letter to Women of Color](#)
by Prisca Dorcas Mojica Rodríguez

The founder of Latina Rebels and a “Latinx Activist You Should Know” (*Teen Vogue*) arms women of color with the tools and knowledge they need to find success on their own terms.

[Catalina](#) by Karla Cornejo Villavicencio

A year in the life of the unforgettable Catalina Ituralde, a wickedly wry and heartbreakingly vulnerable student at an elite college, forced to navigate an opaque past, an uncertain future, tragedies on two continents, and the tantalizing possibilities of love and freedom.

[Behold the Dreamers](#) by Imbolo Mbue

The novel details the experiences of two New York City families during the 2008 financial crisis: an immigrant family from Cameroon, the Jonga family, and their wealthy employers, the Edwards family.

[Americanized: Rebel Without a Green Card](#) by Sara Saedi

The autobiographical account of Saedi growing up during the years following her sister’s revelation to her about their undocumented status.

[Born a Crime: Stories From a South African Childhood](#) by Trevor Noah

The book focuses on Noah's childhood growing up in South Africa after he was born of an illegal interracial relationship during the apartheid era.

[Funny in Farsi: A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America](#) by Firoozeh Dumas

The book describes Dumas's move with her family in 1972, at age seven, from Iran to Whittier, California, and her life in the United States for the next several decades.

[Solito: A Memoir](#) by Javier Zambora

A memoir as gripping as it is moving, *Solito* provides an immediate and intimate account not only of a treacherous and near-impossible journey, but also of the miraculous kindness and love delivered at the most unexpected moments. *Solito*



is Javier Zamora's story, but it's also the story of millions of others who had no choice but to leave home.

[The Death and Life of Aida Hernandez: A Border Story](#) by Aaron Bobrow-Strain

Taking us into detention centers, immigration courts, and the inner lives of Aida and other daring characters, *The Death and Life of Aida Hernandez* reveals the human consequences of militarizing what was once a more forgiving border. With emotional force and narrative suspense, Aaron Bobrow-Strain brings us into the heart of a violently unequal America. He also shows us that the heroes of our current immigration wars are less likely to be perfect paragons of virtue than complex, flawed human beings who deserve justice and empathy all the same.

Videos, Movies, and Shows:

Immigrants Rising - [Films Highlighting Undocumented Experience](#)

[Videos Highlighting Undocumented Experience](#)

▶ From Executive Producer Selena Gomez | Living Undocumented | Official Trailer

Eight undocumented families' fates roller-coast as the United States' immigration policies are transformed.

▶ Party of Five (Freeform) Trailer HD

The series follows the five Acosta children as they navigate daily struggles after their parents are deported back to Mexico. Until they find a way to get their parents back in the country, these five kids will have to find a way to make it on their own.

▶ ONE DAY AT A TIME Official Trailer (HD) Netflix Comedy Series

The show revolves around a Cuban-American family living in the Los Angeles neighborhood of Echo Park, focusing on a single mother who is an Army veteran dealing with PTSD, her kids and her Cuban mother.

▶ Documented Official Trailer 1 (2014) - Documentary HD

This documentary portrays the life of Jose Antonio Vargas from the time he was sent from the Philippines to the United States as a child, his discovery of his immigration status at age 16, his college years, his career as a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, and his decision for public revelation of his status as



undocumented.

Online Stories/Articles:

[*Shattering the Silence: Undocumented Twins Share their Story*](#) by Brendan O'Shaughnessy

[*My Life as an Undocumented Immigrant*](#) by Jose Antonio Vargas