**Discussion Questions for “Borders” by Thomas King**

The following questions are meant to spark a discussion for the short story “Borders” by Thomas King. In pairs or groups of no more than four people, discuss answers to the questions below.

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1. Why does Laetita’s mom refuse to declare her citizenship as either Canadian or American?
2. Explain the role of the media in the outcome of the story. To answer this question, revisit the place in the story where the news reporters show up to the border. How do things change at this point?
3. Why does Laetita’s mom dress so that she doesn’t “look American” at the border?
4. Explain what Mel means when he says Laetita’s mom is “an inspiration to us all”.
5. Have you ever been forced to answer an either/or question when you felt like an alternative answer was more appropriate?
6. What is the conflict in this story? What *type* of conflict is it? (Person Vs. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)
7. What happens at the climax of the story?
8. Brainstorm what you know about the following concepts. How is each of these addressed in the story? How are these terms connected in the short story? Illustrate these connections on a piece of chart paper.

Identity

Conformity

Pride

Nationality

Citizenship