

## **Embracing Writer-Voice: Mapping Your Borderlands**

THRIVE + Center for Writing and Rhetoric

In *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*, Gloria Anzaldúa explores how writing is shaped by the experience of moving between and through multiple identities. By borderlands, Anzaldúa means both the physical, geographic location that separates the United States from Mexico, but also the borderlands that make the separation between gender, race, and ethnicity much less discrete. She writes early in the Preface, “In fact, the Borderlands are physically present wherever two or more cultures edge each other, where people of different races occupy the same territory, where under, lower, middle and upper classes touch, where the space between two individuals shrinks with intimacy.”

As you reflect on embracing your writer-voice, take a moment to consider what your borderlands might be. The multiple spaces you occupy offer an opportunity to draw from several wells of knowledge in order to experiment with voice. You can fill out the diagram below with the places, people, beliefs, and identities that shape your personal borderlands. How do you see these interacting? How might you bring them together in your writing process?

