



Teaching Bad Bunny: Artifacts & Writing Culture

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ARTIFACTS

an object made by a human being, typically an item of cultural or historical interest.

: a usually simple object (such as a tool or ornament) showing human workmanship or modification as distinguished from a natural object

especially : an object remaining from a particular period

Merriam-Webster

ARTIFACTS & Writing Culture

Analyzing artifacts as a way of writing about culture allows us to move beyond abstract descriptions and instead focus on tangible expressions of everyday life—objects, images, sounds, and practices that carry layered meanings. Artifacts are not passive; they actively tell stories about identity, power, history, and social relations.

Using the work of Bad Bunny as a triggering example, we will engage in an exercise that both generates a reflection on material culture and generate “writing” from a personal perspective.

The Bad Bunny chairs



THE PLASTIC CHAIR GOES VIRAL


<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/bad-bunny-album-plastic-chairs-tiktok-debi-tirar-mas-fotos-rcna188607>

NBC NEWS With Bad Bunny's 'Debí Tirar Más Fotos' album, nostalgia goes viral on TikTok SHARE & SAVE – f X ✉ ... 📌 ☰

CULTURE & TRENDS

With Bad Bunny's 'Debí Tirar Más Fotos' album, nostalgia goes viral on TikTok

Many TikTok users – from Puerto Ricans to South Asians – have posted photos of their families in two white, plastic chairs like the ones on the Puerto Rican artist's album cover.



Monobloc chairs

- <https://www.instagram.com/cremabymitu/reel/DEsZjViqCXu/>



History of the Monobloc Chair

- There is one chair that connects the most diverse places on the planet. Made from a single block of plastic, it is durable, easy to clean, and, above all, cheap. It is usually white – at least in its most recognizable form – and can be found everywhere: from Italian beach lidos to Bangkok's street food stalls, from American backyards to Madrid's Club Dehors and of course... all over the Caribbean.
- It is called Monobloc, and it is so ingrained in our collective memory that it has become a timeless cult object – even if few people know its name. In the Caribbean, it immediately evokes images of elderly people playing cards or dominoes in backyards, beaches and public places.
- <https://www.domusweb.it/en/design/2025/02/20/monobloc-chair-history.html>
- <https://wnurnews.org/two-empty-chairs-a-look-into-bad-bunnys-new-album-cover/>

Quesito

- <https://www.tiktok.com/@cresspomc/video/7457713701852810501>
- A "quesito" in Puerto Rico is a popular pastry, a cream cheese-filled turnover, typically baked in a flaky puff pastry shell. These pastries are often enjoyed as a sweet treat, especially for breakfast or with a coffee. Quesitos are widely available in Puerto Rico, found in bakeries, coffee shops, supermarkets and even in gas stations. Quesitos are considered a cultural artifact.



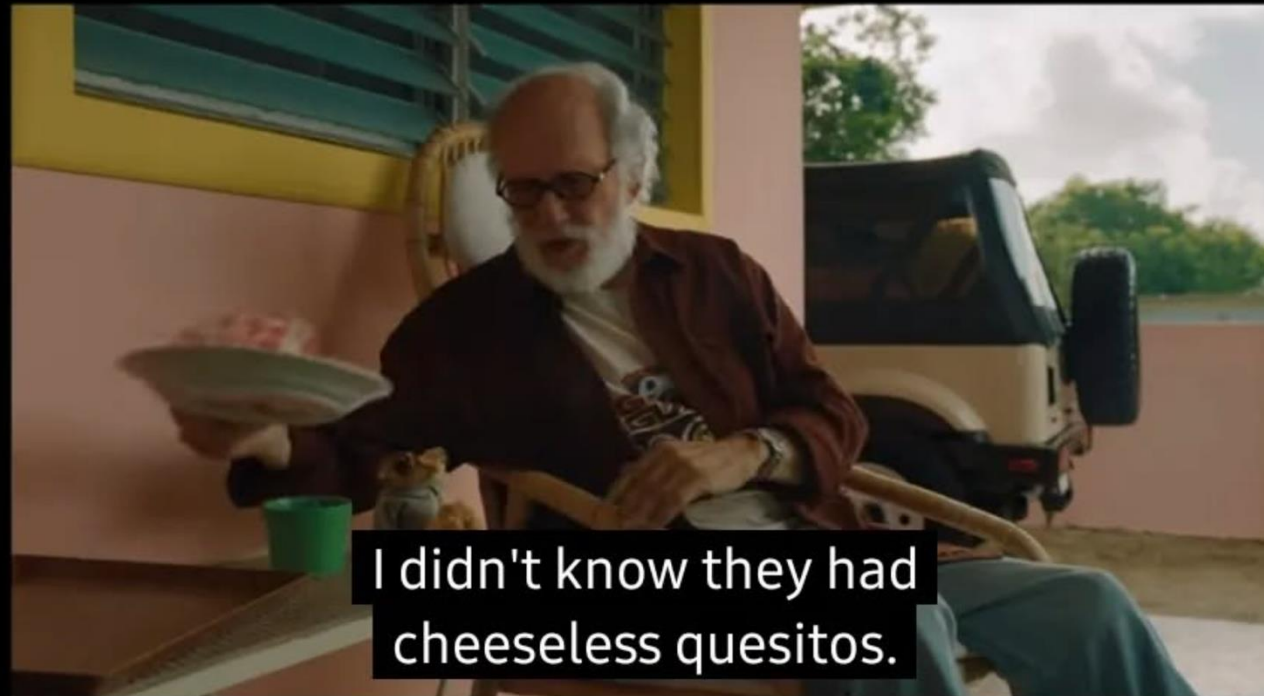
Cheesless Quesito

- What is a Quesito without cheese?

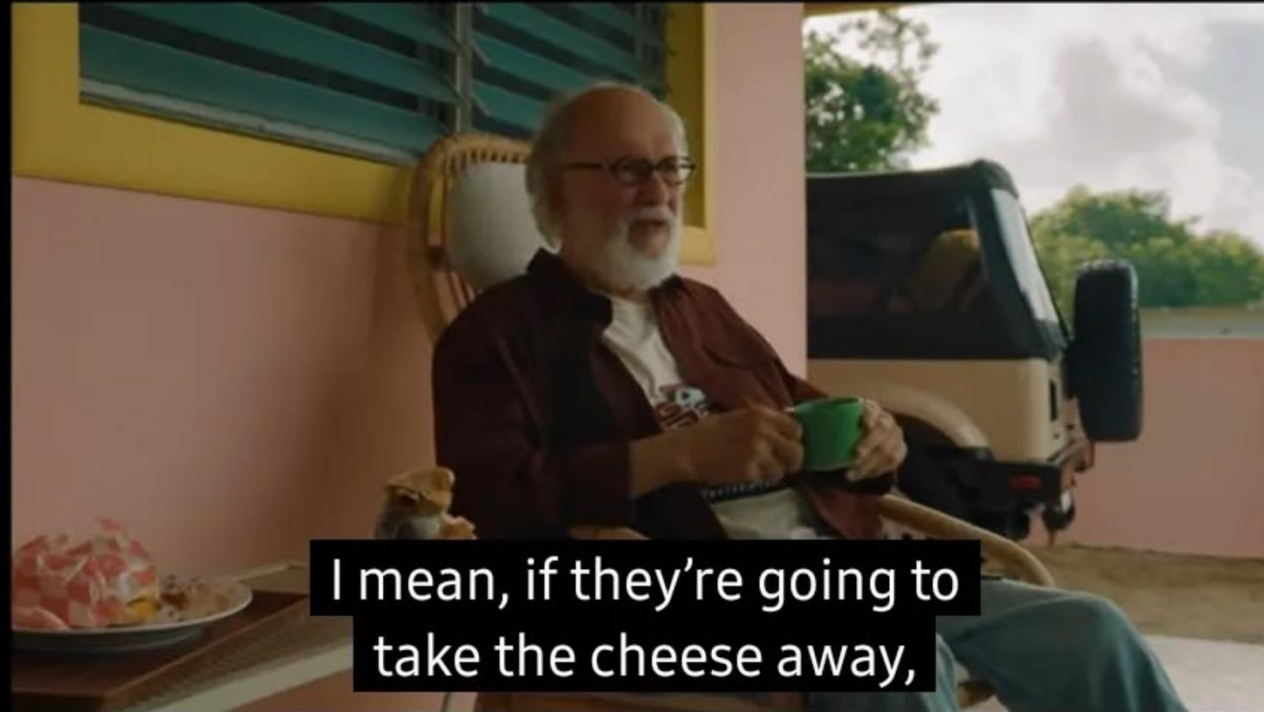
Or, What is Puerto Rico without Puerto Ricans?

- In one scene, the legendary Puerto Rican filmmaker Jacobo Morales goes to a gentrified bakery where he is offered that 'quesito without cheese' which is one of the incentives offered to the US to move to the island, 'kicking out the locals'. A cultural and social displacement that Puerto Rico faces in the process of gentrification.

Cheesless Quesito? What is that?



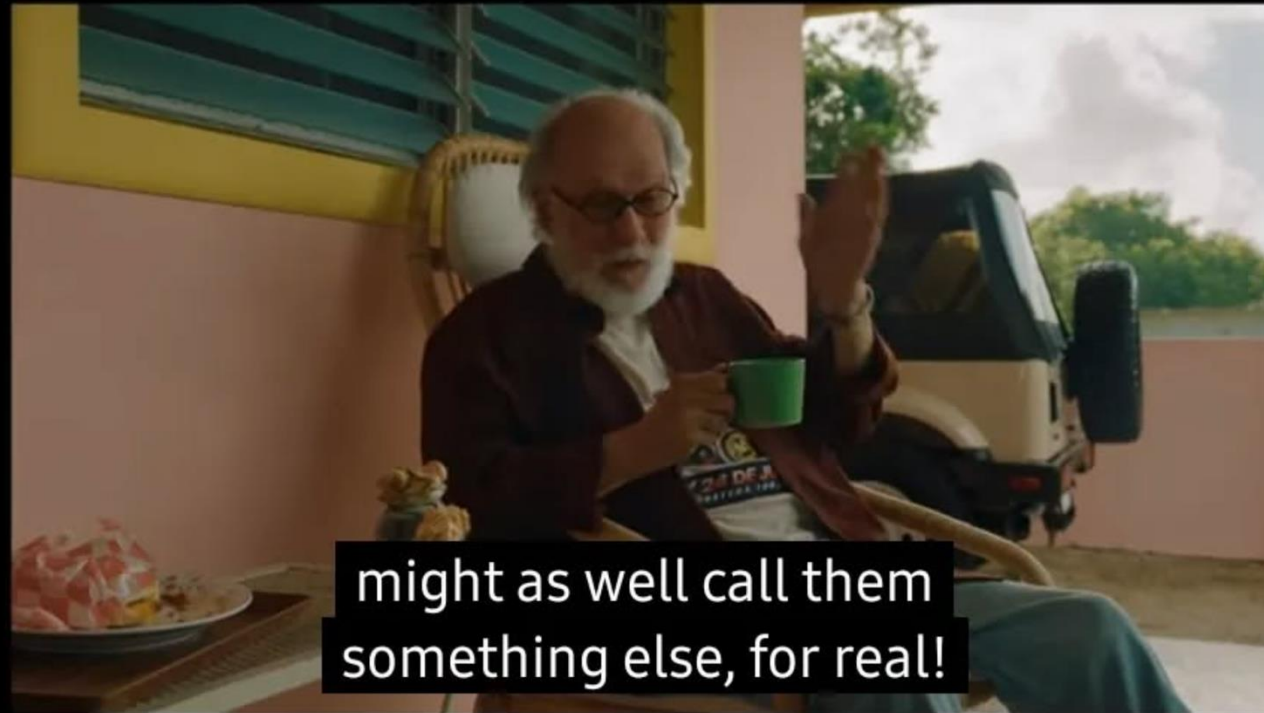
Taking Culture Away...



I mean, if they're going to
take the cheese away,



Call Them Something Else...



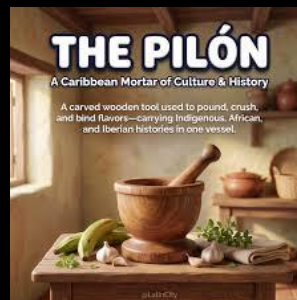
might as well call them
something else, for real!

MY ARTIFACT – PADLET

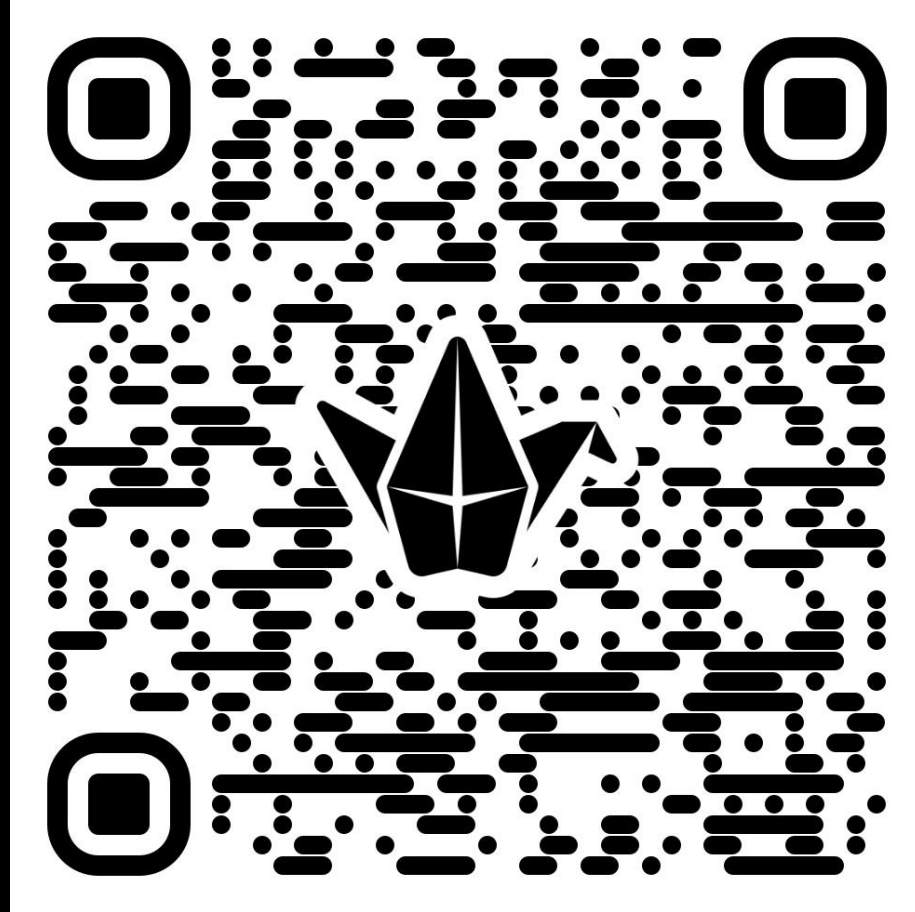
- For your Padlet Artifact you could ask yourself the following questions:
 1. Why is this object considered an “artifact”?
 2. Where did you find your “artifact”?
 3. What is it made of?
 4. What is your relationship with this artifact?
 5. Do you have a practical or emotional connection with this artifact? What activity or emotion does looking at and/or touching your artifact triggers?
 6. Does this “artifact” unite people? Is it related to work or leisure?
 7. What does this artifact tell me about my culture?
 8. What does the artifact tell you about the social conditions of the era?
What cultural issues does it raise?
 9. Has the artifact affected your opinion of the era?
 10. If my artifact is seen by another person in the future they may think...
- <https://www.smithsonianeducation.org/idealabs/ap/essays/looking.htm>

Students' Padlets

- <https://padlet.com/magdalenasagardia/students-padlets-s6hd11zndw29hoek>



Padlet QR Code – My Artifact



Our Padlet

- <https://padlet.com/magdalenasagardia/my-artifact-pcr1bxnk95bycc8e>

¡Gracias! Thank you!



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