INTRO:

The article, “Texas State is Failing in its Hispanic Serving Institution Designation,” by Carissa Liz Castillo, talks about how Texas State isn’t doing enough for their Hispanic students. The importance of this article is to educate and cause awareness of what the university is lacking. Texas State has put up a front as far the reason why the university has so much diversity. As stated in the piece, “Many students are only faintly aware of the implications behind what it means to be an HSI. One of the main reasons for an institution to apply for HSI status is to obtain grant money.” This to me is evidence that they put a green screen in order to show that they’re a diverse school, when in reality, when they turn off the illusion, what shows is their intentions for money.

BODY:

Vance’s portrayal of the hillbilly identity is insightful and culturally sensitive because he approaches the concept with an open mind. He insists that his success in life is largely due to the support of his hillbilly grandparents and their fierce loyalty and dedication, declaring that “hillbillies are the toughest goddamned people on this earth.” in page 9. But he doesn’t allow this faith in his cultural identity to blind him to his community’s shortcomings. “Are we tough enough to look ourselves in the mirror and admit that our conduct harms children?” he asks. He himself is certainly “tough enough” to look in the mirror, a courage he clearly hopes other hillbillies will adopt. Unfortunately, this kind of self-reflection doesn’t appear to be a hillbilly strength. In the memoir’s introduction, Vance quotes an article about Appalachia’s working class that portrays hillbillies as resistant to change; “In traveling across America, the Scots-Irish have consistently blown my mind as far and away the most persistent and unchanging regional subculture in the country.” in the introduction. By illustrating how important it is that hillbillies assess the way they perpetuate harmful practices, Vance implies that his community must finally open themselves up to change, perhaps for the first time. They must look in the “mirror” and consider the side effects of their cultural identity.

CONCLUSION:

Overall, having the opportunity to read and analyze this reading gives the reader a point of view of the difficulties immigrants and families must face like any other human being that wants to achieve goals in their life. Most of the time in life we are placed to overcome complications that we don’t want to face but being supported and surrounded by people that care allows themselves to keep on looking straight forward and to never give up on the goals that one sets for themselves. Making a simple sacrifice for the family demonstrates the guidance of better opportunities even when it means that we must lose a loved one.