



## Chapter 7: Appendix E

### Reading Critically

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Use the Critical Sticky Notes to write a critical thinking question next to both quotes from *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza* (pages 3 and 5).

“... read critically, write consciously, speak clearly, tell your truth.”

—Clint Smith, “The Danger of Silence” (TED Talks)

### Critical Questions

“The U.S.-Mexican border *es una herida abierta* where the Third World grates against the first and bleeds. And before a scab forms it hemorrhages again, the lifeblood of two worlds merging to form a third country—a border culture. Borders are set up to define the places that are safe and unsafe, to distinguish *us* from *them*. A border is a dividing line, a narrow strip along a steep edge. A borderland is a vague and undetermined place created by the emotional residue of an unnatural boundary. It is in a constant state of transition.”

“During the original peopling of the Americas, the first inhabitants migrated across the Bering Straits and walked south across the continent. The oldest evidence of humankind in the U.S.—the Chicanos’ ancient Indian ancestors—was found in Texas and has been dated to 35000 B.C.<sup>3</sup> In the Southwest United States archaeologists have found 20,000-year-old campsites of the Indians who migrated through, or permanently occupied, the Southwest . . . At the beginning of the 16th century, the Spaniards and Hernan Cortez invaded Mexico, and . . . *En 1521 nacio una nueva raza, el mestizo, el mexicano* (people of mixed Indian and Spanish blood), a race that had never existed before.”