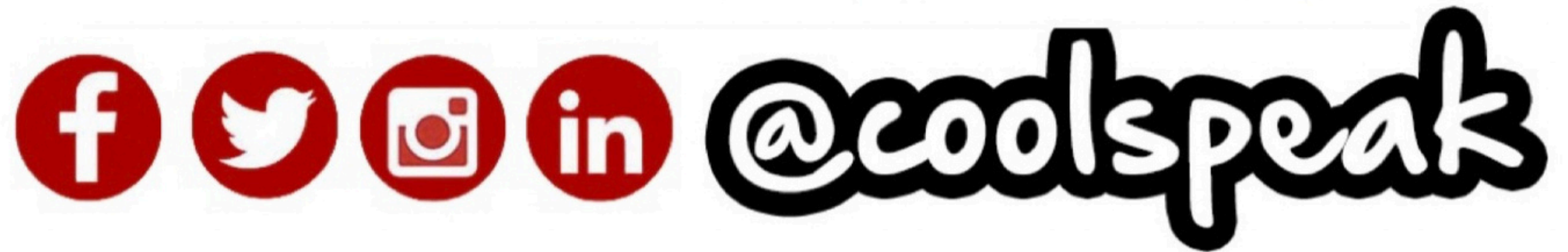


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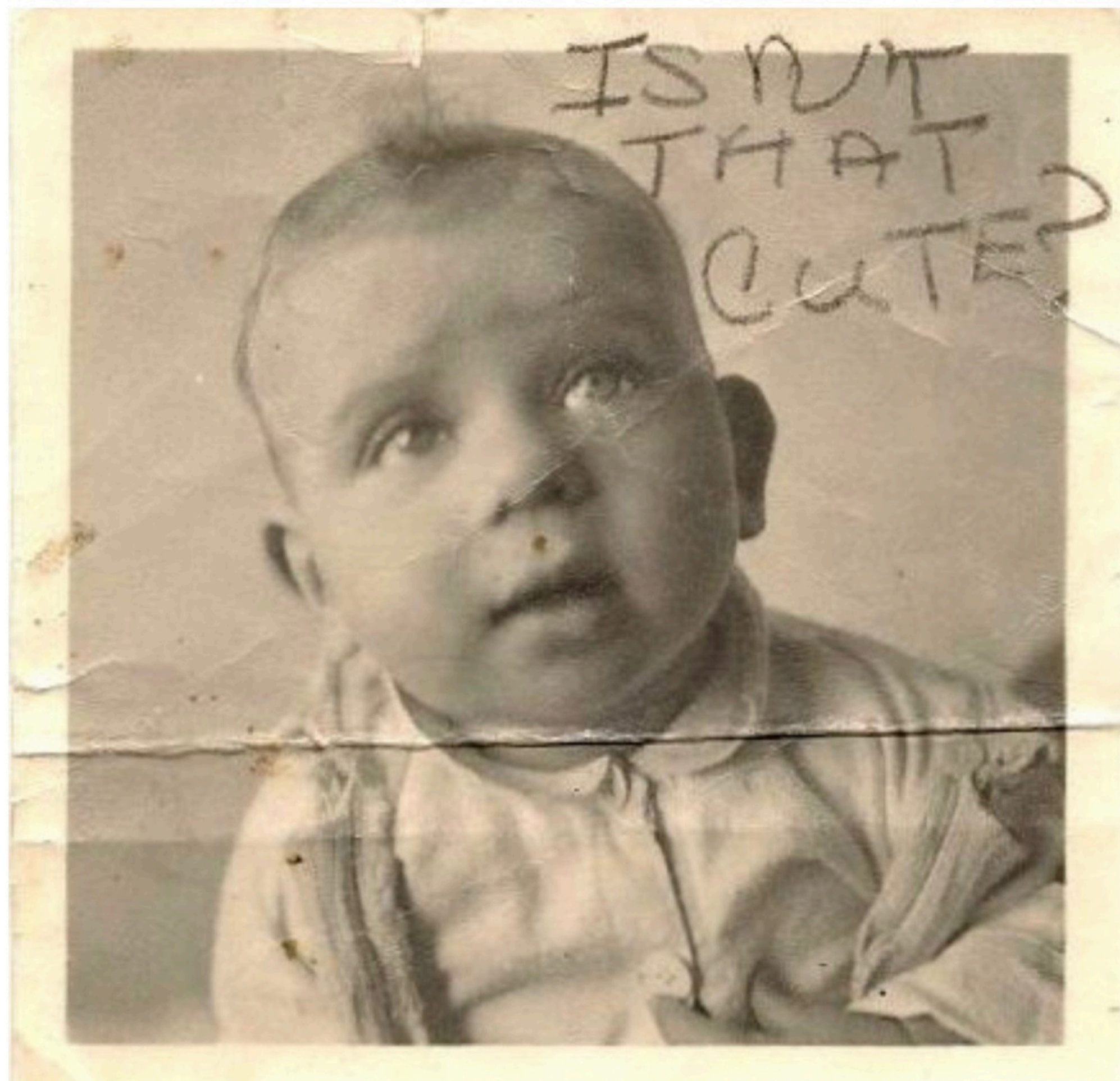
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JOAQUÍN ZIHUATANEJO

partner brother non- song artist writer I am
father Dallas fiction singer adventurer son a
teacher Poet writer business foodie speaker multitude
poet Laureate friend owner tio truth and
world story picker pen- cyclist teller so
champ teller dreamer enthusiast disc good are
nieto essayist believer mentor golfer listener you



My neighbor Paul



“Make sure you tell them I held a Professional Doctorate degree, not some PhD. I didn’t sit around on my head all day thinking. I actually did something.”

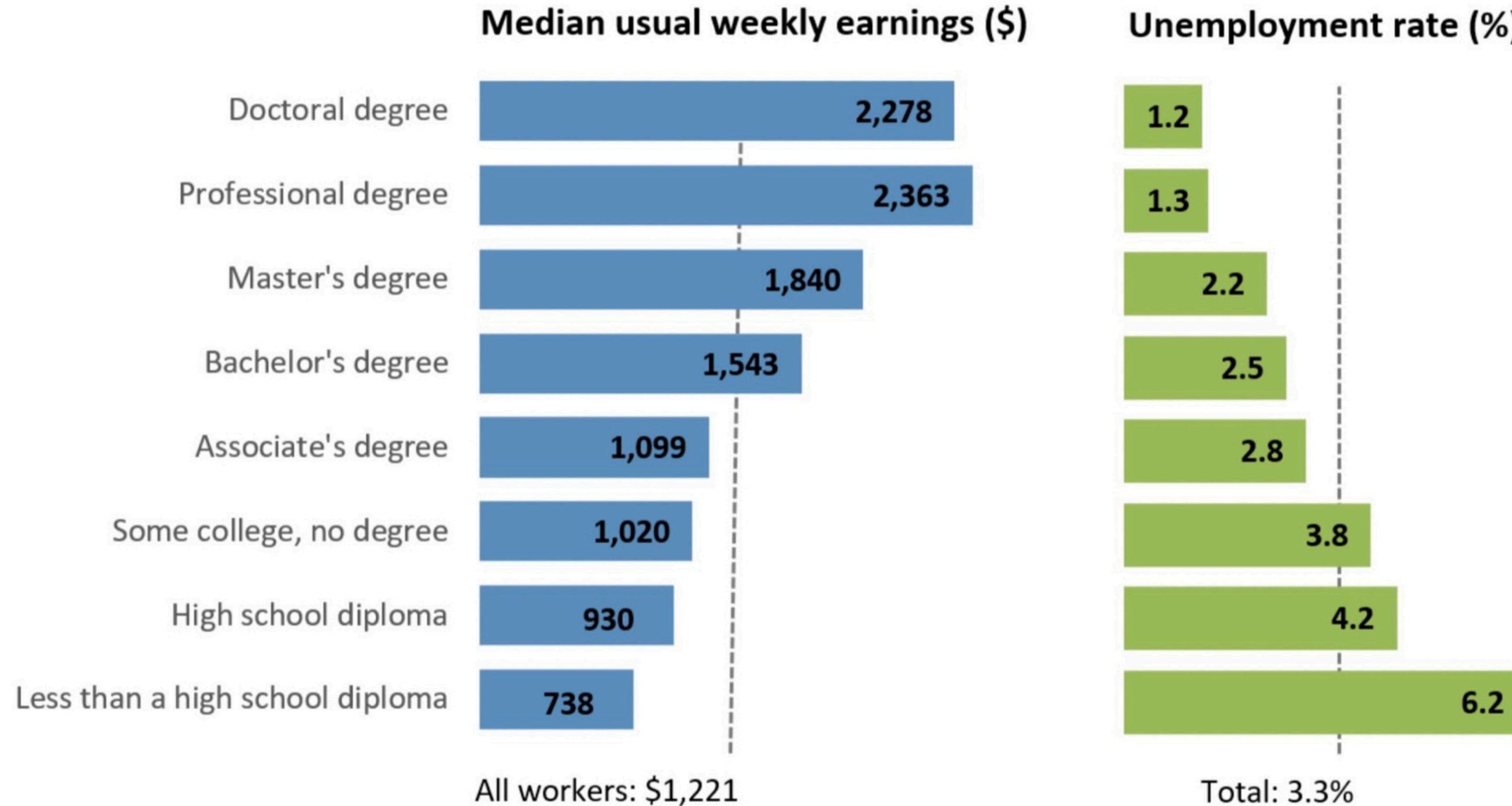
-My neighbor Paul

YEARS OF WORK	SALARY PER YEAR	TOTAL MONEY EARNED
1975 - 2003	\$85,000 X 28 years =	\$2,380,000
2003 - 2011	\$116,000 X 8 years =	\$928,000

My neighbor Paul's lifetime earnings:

\$3,308,000

Earnings and unemployment rates by educational attainment, 2024



Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

No high school diploma	$738 \times 52 =$	\$38,376
High school diploma	$820 \times 52 =$	\$42,640
Some college, no degree	$1,020 \times 52 =$	\$53,040
Associates degree	$1,100 \times 52 =$	\$57,200
Bachelor's degree	$1,543 \times 52 =$	\$80,236
Master's degree	$1,840 \times 52 =$	\$95,680
Doctoral degree (PhD)	$2,278 \times 52 =$	\$118,456
Professional Doctorate	$2,363 \times 52 =$	\$122,876

So how much does it cost to live in Dallas, Texas?

Rent (one bedroom apt): \$1850

Monthly covered parking spot fee: \$47

Electric bill: \$140

Water bill: \$25

Garbage collection: \$35

Groceries/dining out: \$300

~~Car payment: \$500 (for a used car payment in Texas; new much higher)~~

Gasoline: \$200

Car insurance: \$148

~~Daycare: \$900~~

Health insurance: \$415

Phone bill: \$90

Cable/apps/TV: \$60

Total cost for one month: \$3310

$$\text{\$38,376} - \text{\$39,720} = -\text{\$1,344}$$

$$\text{\$1 22,876} - \text{\$39,720} = \text{\$83,156}$$

Prompt 1: Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.

Managing to break free from my mother's grasp, I charged. With arms flailing and chubby legs fluttering beneath me, I was the ferocious two year old rampaging through Costco on a Saturday morning. My mother's eyes widened in horror as I jettisoned my churro; the cinnamon sugar rocket gracefully sliced its way through the air while I continued my spree. I sprinted through the aisles, looking up in awe at the massive bulk products that towered over me. Overcome with wonder, I wanted to touch and taste, to stick my head into industrial sized freezers, to explore every crevice. I was a conquistador, but rather than searching the land for El Dorado, I scoured aisles for free samples. Before inevitably being whisked away into a shopping cart, I scaled a mountain of plush toys and surveyed the expanse that lay before me: the kingdom of Costco.

Notorious for its oversized portions and dollar fifty hot dog combo, Costco is the apex of consumerism. From the days spent being toted around in a shopping cart to when I was finally tall enough to reach lofty sample trays, Costco has endured a steady presence throughout my life. As a veteran Costco shopper, I navigate the aisles of foodstuffs, thrusting the majority of my weight upon a generously filled shopping cart whose enormity juxtaposes my small frame. Over time, I've developed a habit of observing fellow patrons tote their carts piled with frozen burritos, cheese puffs, tubs of ice cream, and weight loss supplements. Perusing the aisles gave me time to ponder. Who needs three pounds of sour cream? Was cultured yogurt any more well mannered than its uncultured counterpart? Costco gave birth to my unfettered curiosity.

While enjoying an obligatory hot dog, I did not find myself thinking about the “all beef” goodness that Costco boasted. I instead considered finitudes and infinitudes, unimagined uses for tubs of sour cream, the projectile motion of said tub when launched from an eighty foot shelf or maybe when pushed from a speedy cart by a scrawny seventeen year old. I contemplated the philosophical: If there exists a thirty-three ounce jar of Nutella, do we really have free will? I experienced a harsh physics lesson while observing a shopper who had no evident familiarity of inertia's workings. With a cart filled to overflowing, she made her way towards the sloped exit, continuing to push and push while steadily losing control until the cart escaped her and went crashing into a concrete column, 52" plasma screen TV and all. Purchasing the yuletide hickory smoked ham inevitably led to a conversation between my father and me about Andrew Jackson's controversiality. There was no questioning Old Hickory's dedication; he was steadfast in his beliefs and pursuits—qualities I am compelled to admire, yet his morals were crooked. We both found the ham to be more likeable and tender.

My intense desire to know, to explore beyond the bounds of rational thought; this is what defines me. Costco fuels my insatiability and cultivates curiosity within me at a cellular level. Encoded to immerse myself in the unknown, I find it difficult to complacently accept the "what"; I want to hunt for the "whys" and dissect the "hows". In essence, I subsist on discovery.

Rules for Writing a Winning Scholarship Essay:

- 1. Have a great first sentence.**
- 2. Check your verbs.**
- 3. Show. Don't tell.**
- 4. Stay on topic.**
- 5. Use sentence variation.**
- 6. Take up some space.**
- 7. Have a great last sentence.**

Resources for Undocumented Students:

- * dream.us
- * Red Thread Foundation Scholarship
- * National University Opportunity Scholarship
- * University of California (UC) Undocumented Student Resource Center
- * SUNY State University of New York encourages all DACA and undocumented students to apply
- * MALDEF Scholarship Resource Guide
- * Prism Foundation Scholarship
- * Davis-Putter Scholarship
- * HOLA at Microsoft Scholarship
- * Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF)
- * First-Gen Trailblazers Scholarship
- * Dr. Juan Andrade Scholarship for Young Hispanic Leaders (USHLI)





Mon. 10:30 AM	Joaquín	Stand Up & Be Heard: Bringing Poetry and an On Campus Poetry Anthology to Your Middle School/High School Students
Mon. 1:45 PM	Chu	Unlocking the Magic of Student Engagement: Making High Impact Programming (HIP) Work for You
Mon. 7:00 PM	CoolSpeak	Join the Conference Social Event!
Tue. 9:00 AM	Joaquín	Dollars For Scholars
Tue. 10:30 AM	Chris	Belong Here: Combating Imposter Phenomenon With Goal Setting





Scan to get access to the slides, resources, and more!

Connect with Joaquín

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