

Jose Antonio Vargas

Quotes

*People, Thinking, Country, Immigration, Writing, America, Mean, Mom, Waiting,
Illegal, Giving, Reality, Cop, White, Black, Independent, Identity, Daughter,
Done, Culture*

America is White and Black and Latino and Asian. America is mixed. America is immigrants.

~Jose Antonio Vargas

Citizenship to me is more than a piece of paper. Citizenship is also about character. I am an American. We're just waiting for our country to recognize it.

~Jose Antonio Vargas

For Filipino Americans, it's a battle for recognition, for identity in a culture where, for the mainstream, Asians tend to fade into a monochromatic racialized 'other.'

~Jose Antonio Vargas

I am not the 'illegal' you think I am, and immigration is not what you think it is.

~Jose Antonio Vargas

When people call me illegal, calling me illegal says more about you than it does about me.

~Jose Antonio Vargas

To be in America illegally is actually a civil offense and not a criminal one.

~Jose Antonio Vargas

You have to stand for something bigger than yourself.

~Jose Antonio Vargas

I have no control over what people call me. The only thing I have control over is my work, and that's really all I can be judged on.

~Jose Antonio Vargas

To me, it's just that social media is allowing people to be in charge of

their own narratives.

~Jose Antonio Vargas

I always felt like I had the word "illegal" tattooed on my forehead.

~Jose Antonio Vargas

I'm not a politician. I'm not a policy wonk. I was a political reporter, but that's not really what turns me on. What turns me on is how people perceive the issue and how people see people like me.

~Jose Antonio Vargas

A friend said to me I'm like a walking New Yorker article. It's true! That's how I write. That's how I think.

~Jose Antonio Vargas

I grew up in newsrooms. I've been in newsrooms since I was 17 years old. Journalism has been like my church; it's been like my identity.

~Jose Antonio Vargas

The only reason I became a writer was so I could exist on a piece of paper.

~Jose Antonio Vargas

A broken immigration system means broken families means broken lives. That's what is at stake.

~Jose Antonio Vargas

The greatest gift that we have as human beings is our ability to empathize. That's why I think personal stories matter so much. That's someone's mom. That's someone's daughter. That's someone's son.

~Jose Antonio Vargas

No amount of success - whatever that means, quote-unquote success - no amount of success replaces the reality of being separated from my

family for this long.

~Jose Antonio Vargas

To this day writing is the most painful thing to do.

~Jose Antonio Vargas

I got here when I was 12, I found out I was undocumented when I was 16, I became a journalist when I was 17, and all I ever did was write other stories to run away from myself.

~Jose Antonio Vargas

There isn't anybody I won't talk to about immigration - at least once.

~Jose Antonio Vargas

Film, as any immigrant will tell you, television and movies is the way we make sense of America when we first got here.

~Jose Antonio Vargas

I think I've always been paranoid.

~Jose Antonio Vargas

I've done everything I've done in America with the limitations I have.

~Jose Antonio Vargas

The last thing reporters and editors want to be told is what to do and how to write. They don't want to be some politically correct, Orwellian, kind of like "you're telling me how to write about...?"

~Jose Antonio Vargas

I like Q&A's better than articles sometimes because I feel like I'd rather hear somebody actually talk or wrestle with.

~Jose Antonio Vargas

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