Small Group Discussion Questions

1. Describe the scene and the figures in each painting.
   * What are the similarities and differences?
2. Compare the setting of each painting
   * How does the setting contribute to the meaning of the painting?
3. Describe the mood of each work.
   * How did the artist achieve that mood?
4. Each painting reflects a point of view or perspective of the Mexican people.
   * How does the artist want the viewer to feel about the main subject?
   * Find something in the painting that supports your opinion.
5. Artists plan their work and give careful thought to the arrangement of people and objects.
   * How has each artist placed his figures to enhance the “story” of the painting?
   * What is similar and different about each composition?
6. How does the artist use color or lack of color in both paintings?
7. What is each artist trying to capture about the relationship between the United States and Mexico?
   * How might each painting be viewed as propaganda?
8. How does each painting help you understand the role of the Mexican-American War in the westward expansion of the United States??
9. What does your analysis and comparison of the two paintings add to your understanding of the event and it role in American history?
   * What might be the legacies of the Mexican-American War and the perception of Mexicans seen in history today?