

Immigration - The American Way - Past, Present, and Future

The United States of America is one of the most diverse country in the world and arguably human history. This great country is one composed of immigrants from around the world. A steady stream of immigrant population has created a mosaic of races, ethnicities, religions, and socio-economic backgrounds. Presently, immigrants continue to arrive in the United States to realize the American dream and the promise of a better future. According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, in 2013 990,513 persons became Lawful Permanent Residents through the green card process. However, as more and more immigrants come to the United States, many Americans are concerned about their economic security and how immigration affects their lives.



When you enter the workforce in several years, how might the United States immigration policy affect you? Research the historical trends of American immigration from 1865 to the present. Work to gain an understanding of the issues relating to immigration. Then, examine the current US policy on immigration and develop an argument for one of four policy options:

1. keeping our doors open
2. balancing our responsibilities
3. allowing in large numbers of highly skilled professionals and small numbers of unskilled laborers
4. closing the borders completely.

In your argument, include predictions for how your recommendations will impact the future of the United States. Develop a presentation of your persuasive argument to the US Commission on Immigration Reform (CIR) in any format you choose.



Immigration - The American Way - Past, Present, and Future Rubric

	Novice	Apprentice	Practitioner	Expert
Research	references 2 sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ references 2 sources, at least 1 from the Internet ▪ cites all sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ references 3 sources, at least 2 from the Internet ▪ research includes first-hand accounts ▪ cites all sources appropriately using Research Tool ▪ creates Montage resource of sources located 	all of <i>Practitioner</i> plus utilizes both primary and secondary sources
History of Immigration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ reviews the nature of immigration in the 1800s ▪ describes the reasons that brought immigrants to our country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ reviews the major waves of immigration from the 1800s until the present day ▪ identifies some benefits that immigrants provided to our country ▪ describes some challenges immigrants faced in coming to the US 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ analyzes immigration patterns from the 1800s until the present day ▪ identifies key benefits that immigrants provided at each stage of US history ▪ describes the challenges immigrants faced over the years, and what policies and laws led to positive change 	all of <i>Practitioner</i> plus compares and contrasts US immigration with that of another country
Current US Immigration Policy	lists & prioritizes the 5 categories of legal immigration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ describes & prioritizes the 5 categories of legal immigration ▪ outlines penalties for illegal immigration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ describes & prioritizes the 5 categories of legal immigration and compares benefits and challenges for 3 categories, using a graphical format (Drawing, LucidChart, etc) ▪ outlines penalties for illegal immigration and includes a brief description of consequences ▪ uses academic vocabulary 	all of <i>Practitioner</i> plus compares current US policy to that of another country
Policy Arguments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ states position ▪ supports position with 2-3 examples 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ clearly states position ▪ supports position with 3 or more specific examples which include evidentiary support ▪ suggests a change to current policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ clearly states position in a formal tone ▪ supports position with three or more specific examples which include evidentiary support, with hyperlinked citations ▪ evidence includes both historical and current references ▪ outlines changes to be made from the current policy ▪ addresses potential counter-arguments 	all of <i>Practitioner</i> plus provides the steps to implement each outlined change and addresses possible challenges to the process
Presentation	includes hook, three body paragraphs, and a closing statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ includes hook, at least three body paragraphs, and a closing statement ▪ working hyperlinks to relevant websites ▪ few errors in mechanics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ includes creative hook, three body paragraphs, and strongly worded closing ▪ working hyperlinks to relevant websites ▪ creative graphics that reinforce the message ▪ citations are included ▪ 0-2 errors in mechanics that do not interfere with meaning 	all of <i>Practitioner</i> plus emails presentation to US CIR

Websites for Immigration - The American Way - Past, Present, and Future

Close Up Foundation

<http://www.closeup.org/immigrat.htm>

This website provides students with a variety of information related to immigration as well as factual statistics about immigration trends and issues.

The Library of Congress

http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/features/immig/immigration_set2.html

The website provides students with a very lively introductory model to the American Immigration experience. It is a blend of vocabulary, recipes, interviews, and other resources related to immigration, and its positive implications for the American Melting Pot.

Rapid Immigration

<http://www.rapidimmigration.com/usa/>

This is a premier site for new immigrants trying to obtain visa information in several languages. For students, it also offers a strong historical background of immigration.

Center for Immigration Studies

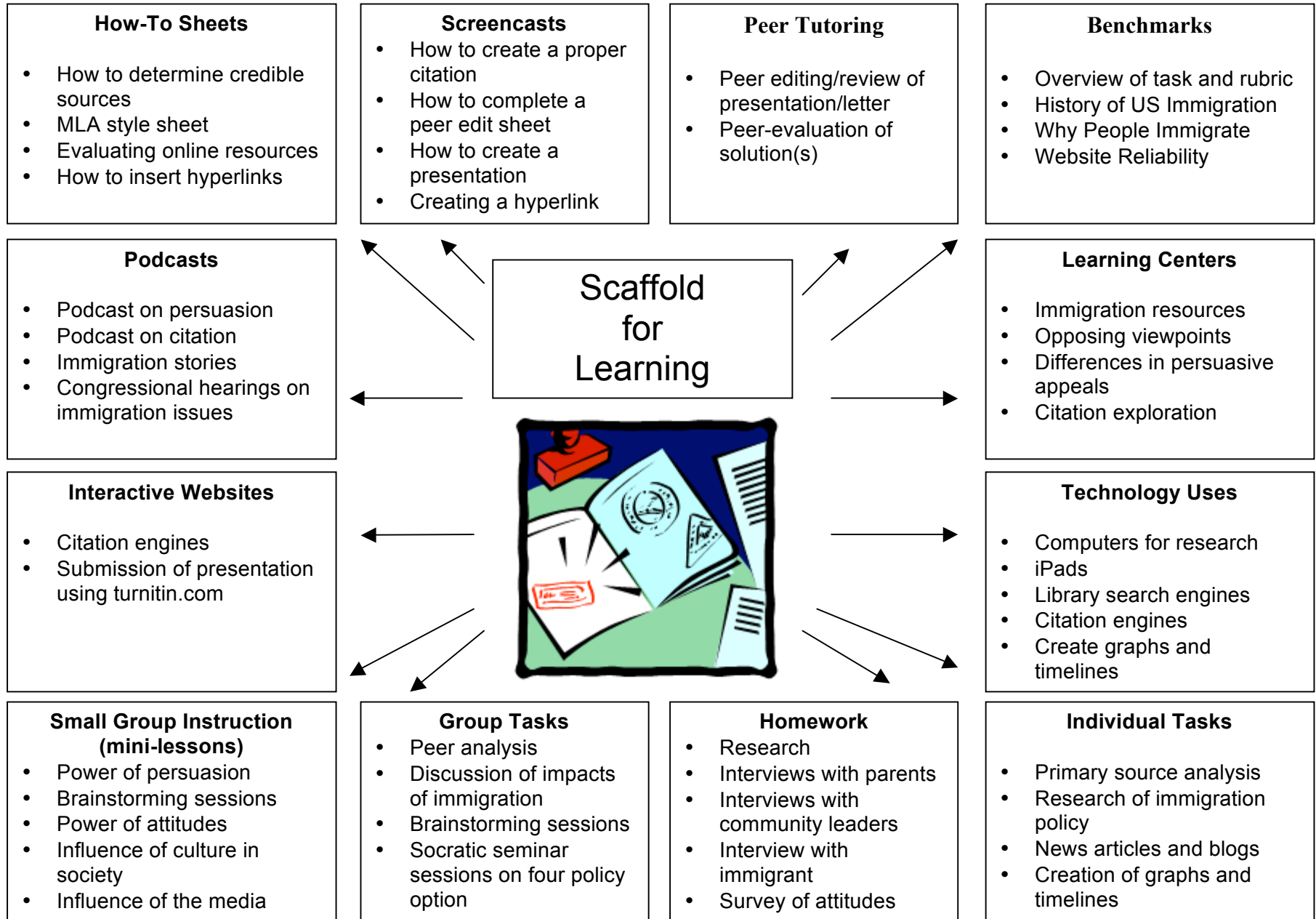
<http://www.cis.org/>

The Center for Immigration Studies is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit research organization. It is devoted exclusively to research and policy analysis of the economic, social, demographic, fiscal, and other impacts of immigration on the United States.

New Americans

<http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/newamericans/index.html>

Students can follow a diverse group of immigrants and refugees as they leave their home families behind and learn what it means to be new Americans in the 21st century. Students can also “talk back” to the Web site monitor and share stories of their own family’s immigration experience.





Immigration - The American Way - Past, Present, and Future Content Facilitation Grid

Student	Identifies immigration policies	Identifies the ways to immigrate	Articulates both pros and cons of immigrations	Describes the historical context of immigration in the US	Identifies the position to take on the issue	Researches background, issues related to position of choice	Identifies key elements of persuasion	Identifies key points of argument	Locates research to support argument	Understands differences in primary and secondary sources	Identifies first-hand accounts in research	Identifies key components of presentation	Uses format appropriate for audience	Creates a strong hook	Arguments are stated clearly	Evidence for arguments are included and support the argument	Presentation includes persuasive language	References sources in presentation	Presentation includes images that support argument	Documents citations in proper style



Immigration - The American Way - Past, Present, and Future *Facilitation Questions*

<p>Comprehension</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the steps involved in completing this task? • What is immigration? • What is the difference between primary and secondary sources? • How can one determine if an internet source is reliable or not? • What is the policy on immigration? • What is stereotyping? • Can you list the elements of persuasion? • Can you identify the important components of your argument? • What is your argument?
<p>Application</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which rhetorical appeal(s) is most appropriate to use with your target audience? • When would one want to use an emotional appeal? • How can persuasive elements be incorporated into your presentation? • What population is most vulnerable to the legal ramifications of immigration? • How are you impacted by stereotyping? • Why is immigration important to the US? • What aspects of society are impacted by immigration? • What negative implications stem from immigration? • What positive impacts stem from immigration? • How does this issue affect you?
<p>Connection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When might you need to know how to persuade others outside of school? • How does immigration law impact you in your day-to-day life? • Do you have a unique perspective to share on immigration? • What real-life action do you hope to orchestrate in response to your presentation? • What connections can you draw between immigration reform and stereotyping? • Are the changes proposed in your presentation realistic? • What ill effects of regulation persist in society?
<p>Synthesis</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What might be another impact caused by your proposed change? • In the next decade, how will immigration and the regulation of immigration change in the US? • In the next decade, what new challenges will we face with immigration reform? • How will the changes you propose impact the concept of stereotyping in the US?
<p>Metacognition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did you determine which rhetorical appeals or stylistic devices to use for your presentation? • What do you feel was the most difficult part of this task? • What problems did you encounter when examining immigration and how did you overcome them? • How did you develop your position to use for this task? • What do you feel was the most difficult part of this task? • What problems did you encounter when synthesizing your research and how did you overcome them?

Essential Questions

In what ways is the United States a “nation of immigrants”?

Why has anti-immigrant sentiment arisen at different points in U.S. history?

How has immigration influenced the laws and social services we have in the United States today?

How do immigration laws influence society?

Enduring Understandings

The United States is considered a “melting pot” because of immigration.

Immigration has had different impacts on the culture of America at different points in time.

Immigration law impacts social services as well as culture.

Immigration law impacts society in a variety of ways.

21st Century Skills Addressed

Core Content and Interdisciplinary Themes

- Subject Area Mastery
- Global Awareness
- Civic Literacy

Learning and Innovation

- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Creativity and Innovation
- Communication and Collaboration

Information and Media Literacy

- Information Literacy
- Media Literacy
- Information and Communication Technology

Life and Career:

- Flexibility and Adaptability
- Initiative and Self-Direction
- Social and Cross-Cultural Skills
- Productivity and Accountability