

Immigration: Perception and Reality

Focus Question: Is the public perception of Immigrants accurate?

Examine myths about immigration and research credible sources to find truths to share with others in a Myth-Buster poster.

Anticipatory Set

Try to separate what you see, hear, and feel while watching the video.

SEE: Record observations of things you see. The observations should be only facts, no feelings or opinions at this point.

HEAR: Record observation of things you hear. The observations should be only facts, no feelings or opinions.

FEEL: Lastly, record how the clip makes you feel. Do not record interpretation or beliefs, just feelings.

"Newcomers High School" (8 minutes)

"For a Better Future" (3 minutes)

"I'm New Here: Welcoming Immigrant Students" (first 3:45 min)



Carousel Activity

With your group, respond to the myth that is at your station with the following guiding questions.

1. Why might some people believe this myth to be true and why did it come into existence?
2. Why is this myth false?

After 3 minutes, move to the next station:

- 1: Most immigrants are here illegally.
- 2: Immigrants don't want to learn English or become citizens.
- 3: Undocumented immigrants take good jobs from U.S. citizens.
- 4: "The worst" people from other countries are coming to the United States and bringing crime and violence.
- 5: Undocumented immigrants don't pay taxes and burden the national economy.
- 6: We should ban immigrants from certain countries and/or build a wall to protect our country.



Service Project:

Project Overview: Create Immigration Myth-busters posters to hang all around your school to help spread accurate knowledge and prove myths wrong. Use the myths from your group activity or research another myth.

Cite the original sources for the data so your work has credibility, and is not based on emotion or misrepresentation of facts.

Service Project:

Procedure:

1. Meet in your group to determine the myth you are busting.
2. Find sources for accurate information and list facts to share.
3. Brainstorm and decide on the message and design of the poster.
4. Plan your design and language with the location where it will hang in mind (placement and audience).
5. Make a poster to accurately and clearly communicate an immigration truth that dispels a common myth.
6. Include a call to action for the reader.
7. Cite references, preferably primary sources.
8. Hang up the poster.



Variations

1. Create a booklet of useful resources and information for new immigrants (or people who move into your neighborhood). Brainstorm what someone who is new to this country (or school or community) might need. [Where to play, shop, school procedures, common words, local favorites, etc.] Make the booklets available in the school office and at local community organizations that serve immigrants and their families.
2. Make a poster expressing a welcoming statement and picture for children who are new to the school or community. See the examples in the video "I'm New Here" above.

Philanthropy Benchmark

1. Analyze philanthropic traditions of diverse cultural groups and their contributions to civil society.
2. Describe the importance of hearing all voices in a community and respecting their right to be heard.
3. Give examples from history of how intolerance of ideas, religion, and minorities contributed to social disintegration.
4. Discuss examples of groups denied their rights in history.
5. Compare actions for the common good in a variety of economic systems.
6. Explain why private action is important to the protection of minority voices.
7. Discuss a public policy issue affecting the common good and demonstrate respect and courtesy for differing opinions.
8. Select a service project based on interests, abilities and research.