

“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.”

Welcome to America! Well that is what most immigrants thought when they came to the United States during the late 1800s. Unfortunately not everyone was as happy to see the immigrants as they were happy to be here. During the next few days you will be preparing to give a presentation to the U.S. Council on Immigration. They will hear arguments from all sides of the argument. At the end of the class they will make their decision.

Option 1 - Opening Ourselves To The World

The past few years we have seen democracy triumph over dictatorships, and a new era of global interaction is beginning. In this world borders will have less significance. Immigrants are coming for all over the world and help the United States economy prosper. Andrew Carnegie, Henry Ford and so many others have come to America and made it what it is today. From its earliest days, the United States was a land of opportunity for people outside our borders. Each wave of immigrants enriched our society. Keeping our doors open lets the world know that we remain a country that looks forward to tomorrow and is willing to grow and change using ideas from all people.

Option 2 - Balancing Our Responsibilities

The United States and the world are facing both serious problems as well as great opportunities. In this challenging atmosphere, we continue to be an international leader. But we must restore the health of our own society to remain in our leading position. Problems in our country like disease, crime, standard of living, are taking its toll on America. Opening our doors to massive immigration solves no one's problems, not ours or the countries the immigrants are coming from. We need to control immigration and use the money we have spent on massive immigration to help our own disadvantaged citizens.

Option 3 - Keeping Only The Highly Skilled

Economic competition among nations has grown fiercer. We are still a growing country, but we have let our competitive edge slip away in the past few years. Our country requires an immigration policy that fits our overall economic needs. A two-pronged approach makes the most sense. A reduction in unskilled immigrants and a increase in highly skilled immigrants will help our country. This will kickstart our economy while keeping America Great!

Option - 4 Recognizing Our Limits

The world is changing at a breakneck speed. The population in poor countries and the spread of war, hunger and disease is pouring people to our beloved country. We must recognize that America can do little to end these worldwide problems. Instead, we must work to maintain our own way of life. Loss of country, customs and language is happening as we speak. Although the United States is a nation of immigrants, we can no longer support massive immigration since much of our workers are working for low wages. We must drastically reduce the number of immigrants and commit our resources to take control of our borders.

“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.”

Rules For Immigration Debate

Each Group will have five minutes to present their Option for dealing with immigration. Groups must create a list of bullet points based on the individual paragraphs created by the members to focus on during their presentation. This is necessary to keep your debate spotlighted on specific supporting arguments for your Option.

After your five minutes is up, the Immigration Board will ask you a few questions. They will be judging not only your presentation but also your answers to their questions. Other groups will have time to counter points or ask you questions when all the groups have presented.

Each group must turn in the Talking Points chosen below.

Talking Points For Option _____

- _____

- _____

- _____

- _____

“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.”

Option 1 is based on the following beliefs

- America is still a young, vigorous country with room to grow.
- America’s strength lies in its diversity, particularly in the fresh ideas and cultures provided by new immigrants.
- Immigrant families, like the families of all Americans, should not be kept apart by our countries immigration laws.

PROS - Supporting Arguments

1. Welcoming new immigrants into our country will inject valuable skills into the U.S. economy and enable American Culture to maintain the rich diversity that is America.
2. Renewing the United States’ long tradition of offering opportunity and refuge for immigrants will earn the U.S. respect and admiration from people in the world.
3. Immigrants will take advantage of their ties to their native countries traditions which will develop new jobs, shops, customs etc.

CONS - Opposing Arguments

1. If immigration continues at its current pace America will be flooded with immigrants and we will lose our tradition.
2. Immigrants are taking up space in our cities which are already being overcrowded.
3. Encouraging highly skilled workers to immigrate to the United States robs poor countries of their most valuable human resource.
4. Opening our doors to unskilled immigrants at a time when the U.S. economy offers them few high paying jobs will add to the problems.

“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.”

Option 2 is based on the following beliefs

- We must accept that problems affecting other countries are America’s problems as well.
- By developing well-crafted programs of foreign aid and trade benefits, the United States can help people in poor countries improve their life.
- While we have an obligation to reduce suffering wherever possible, addressing the needs of the disadvantage in the United States must be our first responsibility.

PROS - Supporting Arguments

1. Reducing the level of immigration to the United States will allow us to address poverty, crime, drug abuse, and other problems here at home.
2. Awarding fewer immigration visas and expanding foreign aid programs and trade benefits for the developing world will reduce the loss of highly skilled workers from poor countries, thereby improving countries around the world.
3. Developing an immigration policy that is a compromise on both extremes is how we keep America moving forward responsibly.

CONS - Opposing Arguments

1. Dumping money into new foreign aid programs will come at the expense of people which could me higher taxes.
2. Nativism will run wild if, people believe Immigrants are causing a problem.
3. Closing our doors to immigrants will increase international tension, and make America look racist.
4. Without high levels of immigration, the United States will lack the talent and energy to strength our county and address future problems.

“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.”

Option 3 is based on the following beliefs

- Maintaining our economy’s competitive edge is essential to the well-being of Americans.
- Promoting America’s economic strength should be the guiding principle.
- Skilled, well-educated immigrants are most capable of contributing to the betterment of the United States.

PROS - Supporting Arguments

1. Admitting highly skilled immigrants who are well-suited to the demand of the U.S. economy will help hold down on problems like disease, crime, poor conditions, and loss of culture.
2. Tailoring U.S. immigration policy to the needs of our economy will attract immigrants who have the most to offer American industry, especially in the skilled trades.
3. Permitting the entry of temporary foreign workers keeps American diverse.

CONS - Opposing Arguments

1. Limiting immigration to the well-educated discriminates against the poor and goes against tradition.
2. America would be taking all the skilled workers from poor countries which could damper international relations.
3. Counties around the world may loss economic stability.
4. Family reunification will leave many close relatives apart and America could loose many skilled workers.

“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.”

Option 4 is based on the following beliefs

- The United States is one of the few islands of stability and prosperity in the world.
- Continued high levels of immigration would overwhelm America’s unique culture.
- High levels of immigration deprive America’s poor of opportunities for economic advancement.

PROS - Supporting Arguments

1. Reducing the level of immigration to the United States will allow us to address poverty, crime, drug abuse, and other problems here at home.
2. Stopping immigration will opening up higher paying jobs for Americans.
3. Our culture, language and customs will be preserved.

CONS - Opposing Arguments

1. Fencing off our neighbors will spark anti-American feelings around the world.
2. Closing the door on new immigrations will keep out some of the brightness and best of the world
3. Closing our doors to immigrants will increase international tension, and make America look racist.
4. Family reunification will stop altogether. Families will be broken up.

“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.”

Rules For Immigration Debate

Each Group will have five minutes to present their Option for dealing with immigration. You the United States Immigration Board must come up with questions that relate to their position from the resources provided. The questions must be tough and fair.

You Must make 4 Questions for each group.

Question's For Option __1__

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Question's For Option __2__

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.”

Question's For Option __3__

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Question's For Option __4__

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____
