

Illegal Immigration in the USA

On easel paper around the room, have students write down what they think of when they see the words: **American, Illegal immigrant, citizenship, immigration**. Responses should be limited to words or short phrases (5-10 minutes)

Next, separate the class into small groups. Each group should assign a note taker and presenter. In groups, students should discuss the following questions.(25 minutes)

Discussion Questions:

- What can the United States learn from other countries immigration laws?
- Do you think the US should change its immigration policy? For example, should we move more towards a skills based system (like Canada) as opposed to our family reunification system?
- Are you a citizen of any other country? Do you have dual citizenship?
- Would you ever consider becoming a citizen of another country? If so, why?
- Would you ever consider giving up that citizenship?
- What does being an American mean? Do you consider yourself an American? If not, why not? For example, do you consider yourself a Californian or a San Franciscan more so than an American? Do you have to be a citizen to be an American?
- Who can become an American? Who do you think should be able to become an American?
- Why might countries restrict immigration? Why make it easier?

Students should be prepared to share key answers with the class in a moderated discussion led by the teacher.

After the discussion, have students flip the sheet over and write down initial views on the topics presented. (5 minutes)

Watch Video (33 or 127 minutes)

During the video, students should take notes on the topics previously discussed

After watching the video, lead a short discussion on the following:

- What are the main arguments in favor of “amnesty?” What are the main arguments against? What do you think?
- Do you believe Jose Antonio Vargas should be granted citizenship? Why or why not?
- Who should be allowed to become an American citizen?
- After watching the movie, have any of your opinions changed? Did you learn anything?
- How do you define American?

Go back to the original posters- Have your opinions on immigration changed? How so?

INITIAL PERCEPTION**NOTES FROM VIDEO**

**Illegal
immigrants in
the USA**

**Definition of
American**

**Definition of
Citizenship**

**Process for
becoming a
US citizen**

**Should JAV be
allowed to
become a US
citizen?**