

Empowering Immigrant Students

Julie Mann, Newcomers High School



Who am I? Who are you?

- **Teacher of ELLs for 22 years**
- **Human Rights & Mindfulness are my passions**
- **Who are you: name, location, job, passion?**



Newcomers High School

- **57 countries, 29 languages**
- **100% ELLs**
- **High needs**



Our Connection to Immigrants

“If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to one another.” Mother Theresa

What is the connection between this quote and the current administration’s stance towards immigrants?

Post-Election Advocacy Work

- [The “Trump Effect” SPLC Reports](#)
- [ADL Current Events Classroom](#) + Blog
- Letters to Trump then AG Schneiderman
- Visit from Dori Katz, Hidden Child
- Immigration Advocacy Day
- Work with Luke Nephew, Peace Poet + blog

Background on My School, Students

- Film clip
- Link is below
- Chat box:
 1. Reactions?
 2. Questions
 3. Bridge building?



[Young Immigrants Share Their Stories](#)

The Trump Effect

- SPLC Reports:
 1. “The Trump Effect”
 2. “Ten Days After”
- Analysis
- Connections to their experiences



ADL Current Events

Lessons from the ADL's Current Events Classroom

1. [Election Reflection](#)
2. [Sanctuary Cities](#)
3. [Hate Symbols](#)

ANTI-BIAS EDUCATION IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE RIGHTS

Listen to the Voices of Immigrant and Muslim Youth

April 4, 2017



[Blog post about our work](#)

Action Steps: Letters

- Letters to President Elect Trump
- Turned into letters to NY Attorney General Eric Schneiderman



Student voices:

I'm a Mexican HS student who has been feeling really concerned and sad about the situation this country is currently going through. I'm writing this letter because I want to express what I think about all the things that are happening in this country and how I feel here as an immigrant. Lately, I can feel the tension among the people in my community, I try to stay positive but it is hard to do when everything around you makes you feel like hope is running out. I don't understand why Mr. Trump and many of his followers think those awful things about immigrants. I would like to think that it is because they had a bad experience with one, and if it is like that I want to apologize for it. I'm still faithful about the situation because I know that we, the immigrants or at least most of us are not doing anything wrong and I dare say this because I see throughout the day all the endeavors that immigrants like me do on a daily basis. I really want people to understand that we did not come here to "steal" jobs or do them wrong, we came here because we were trying to escape from the situation our countries are facing, things like poverty, wars, and corruption among many other things that even I may not know about. We came here because we innocently thought that this country was the right place to accomplish our dreams, that is the only thing we want, just like everyone else in life. We just want to have a better life. I really want people to understand that.

More student voices

I worry for my sister who wears a hijab and goes to an American school. I worry about what the students in her school say about her because she is a Muslim as I am, and I worry that they give her the terrorist look. When I, the one who lives with her, know that she is a cute little angel who loves her school and education, like anybody else who is not wearing a hijab.

More student voices:

I am an immigrant and I'm proud of that because it is not easy to leave everything you know and everyone you love behind. It was hard to pass through the feelings of alienation when you are in a whole new place. As an immigrant, I came here seeking for safety and to reach my goals. I was scared for the change but my mind was clear. I wanted to graduate and be appreciated for my effort. I want to make my mom proud by studying for my future. I want to become a human being with values and a promising future. I chose to come to the United States because it was the "dream land" instead of staying in Ecuador. In other words, I rather preferred to explore and search for chances that could help me than stay in my comfort zone where I had everything but it was not enough for my expectations. I took a risk and half of a year before I was satisfied for my smart decision. However, it seems these wishes are going far away and are replaced with worries. I am studying to succeed but the fear of one day being treated as a criminal is causing a lack of motivation. Lately, the deportations are occupying the first place in every immigrant's mind and not in a good way. It is affecting our health because it is stressing us. Someone said, "Where do souls go to hide after deportation?" Just imagine the shame a deported person would feel when they come back to their families without getting what they dreamed of, without an A for their courage, but with an F for fool.

Dori Katz

- Hidden Child
- Sharing Stories
- Facing History



Dori Katz

“One day when my mother came home from work, two men who identified themselves as plainclothes police officers were waiting for her at her doorstep. They asked to see her papers “Papers, what papers?” asked Golda... she made up an elaborate story about her citizenship papers...but she knew she was caught. The policemen discovered that not only was she not a citizen, but she had no legal papers whatsoever...” (page 32)



[Looking for Strangers](#)
[By Dori Katz](#)

Immigration Advocacy Day

Partnership with SLS Buddies



Immigration Advocacy Day

- Roger Archer, NYPD Detective
- NYC policies
- ICE awareness



Immigration Advocacy Day

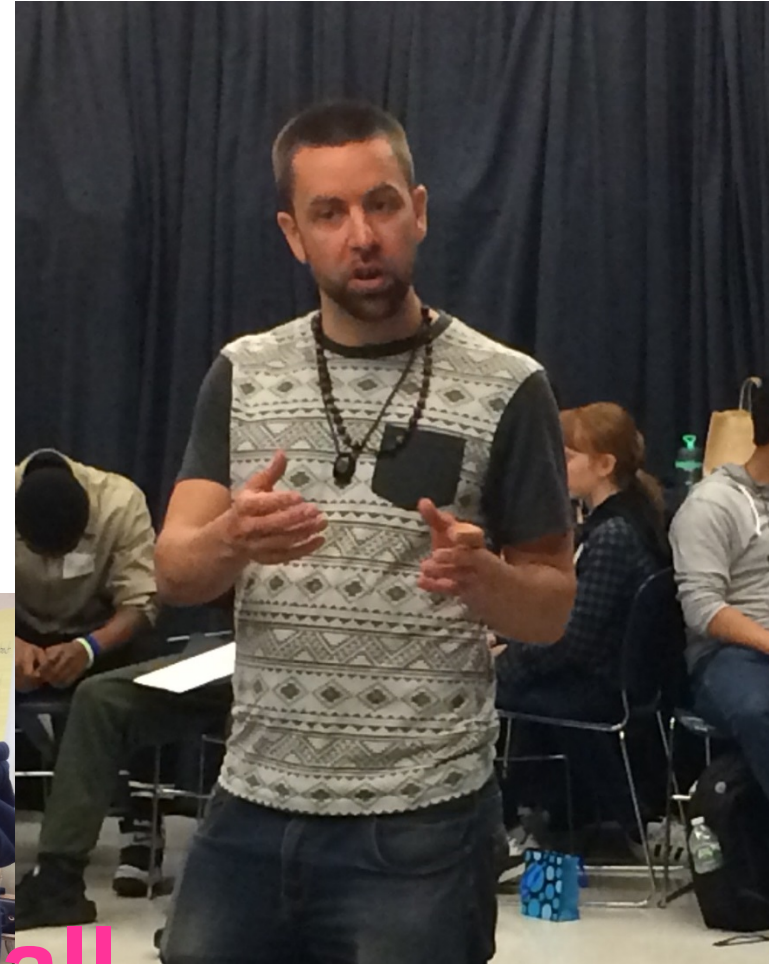
Poetry &
Poster
Advocacy
Campaign



I have the right
to be with my family
I have the right
to sing out loud
I have the right
to dream.

Spoken Word Poetry as Protest

Luke
Nephew,
Peace Poet



No ban, no wall
We want freedom for us all.

Reality by D.C.

[Published in the NY Times Learning Network](#)

If I had one minute to tell the world what it's like to be an immigrant teenager, I would tell them that life is hard, you face obstacles all the time, everything has to be calculated, and loneliness has become my life partner. I'm scared to get attached to people simply for fear that I might never see them ever again.

I'm scared something could happen to my parents, and I won't be able to be by their side.

I feel weak sometimes, I feel like giving up all the time, and I feel vulnerable,

I feel like I need to put up a wall to protect myself from getting hurt.

I'm scared of the future,

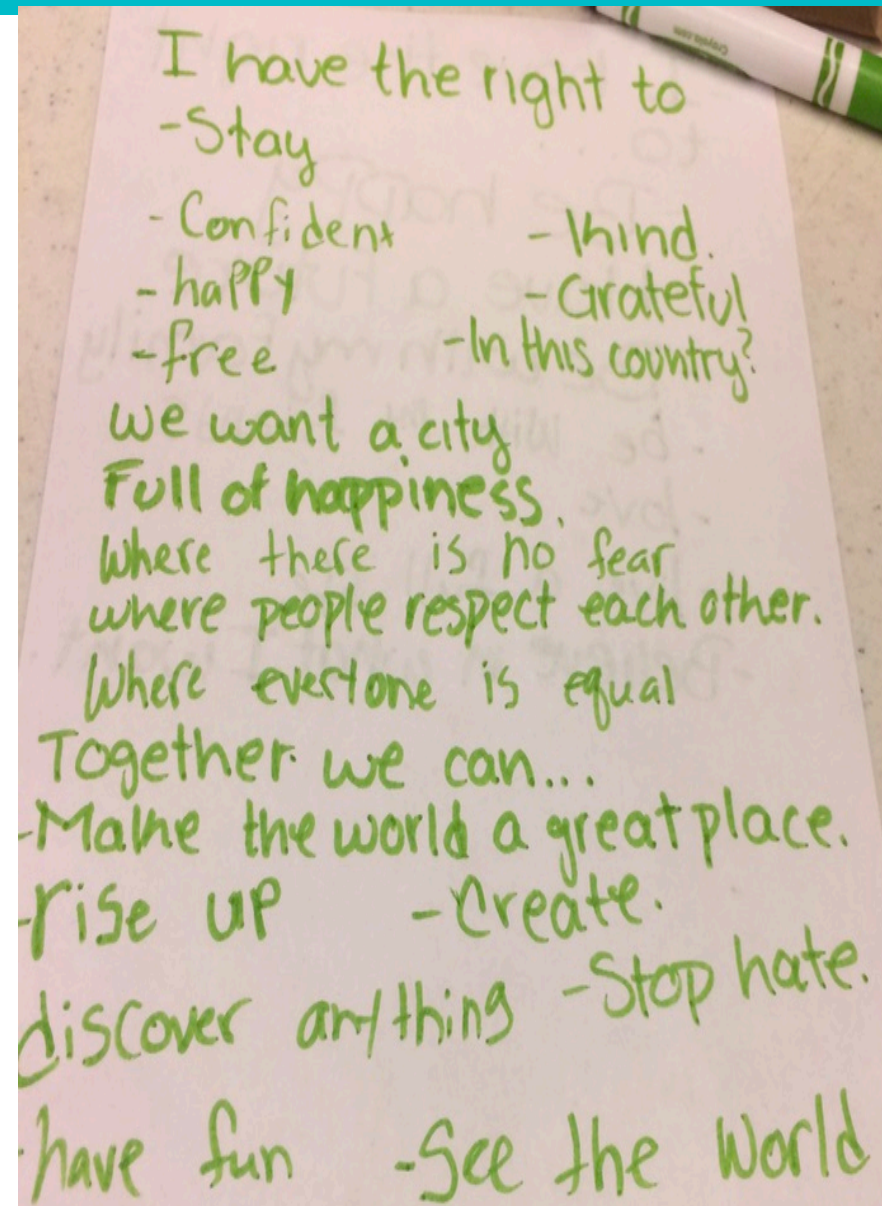
I'm scared of what the world is going to be like when I grow up.

I'm scared I won't be able to tell my kids that this is a good and beautiful place to live.

And I'm scared I won't be able to survive.

Educational Benefits in My Setting

- Gives students an opportunity to learn from and with each other.
- Shows students they have agency and that their experience matters.
- Teaches students how to speak truth to power.
- Helps students feel safe and supported.



I have the right to

- Stay
- Confident
- happy
- free

- blind.
- Grateful
- In this country?

We want a city
Full of happiness,
Where there is no fear
where people respect each other.
Where everyone is equal

Together we can...

- Make the world a great place.
- Rise up
- Create.
- Stop hate.
- Discover anything
- have fun
- See the world

Larger Benefits

- Educates others about our students' experiences.
- Builds a bridge between immigrants and their new communities.
- Breaks stereotypes about who immigrants are and why they come.
- Gives others a chance to help.



Questions?

[Email me: jmann6@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:jmann6@schools.nyc.gov)



Resources

All materials
presented today
are in this
Dropbox folder.

