TEACHING IMMIGRATION NOW
CURRENT EVENTS IN THE CLASSROOM
TRENDS AND IMPACTS
IMPACTS: RECENT U.S. IMMIGRATION POLICY

- 90% of administrators saw behavioral or emotional problems among immigrant students.
- 84% of teachers said students expressed concerns about immigration enforcement at school.
- 68% of administrators said absenteeism among immigrants is a problem.
- 70% of principals and counselors reported academic decline among immigrant students.
- 85% of teachers and administrators reported increase in their own anxiety, stress and hopelessness over what their students are enduring.

Source: UCLA Civil Rights Project
IMPACT ON THE SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

Who is Impacted?

- Immigrant students and their families
- Children of immigrant parents
- Friends, peers/classmates (all students)
- Teachers, counselors, administrators
- School community
- Community at large

“A very important point: it is not just the children of immigrant parents who are affected by this immigration enforcement regime; but in fact, **all students in the schools are being disrupted by these fear-inducing tactics.**”

“Absenteeism is a big problem for schools…And the empty seats that are left in the classroom when these children are taken away are a constant reminder to everyone that some of the classmates are missing. Both teachers and students can experience grief—as if a classmate has died when all of a student is no longer there.”
HATE INCIDENTS IN K-12 SCHOOLS

- Incidents mostly targeted black and Latino students, as well as those who are Jewish or Muslim.

- Most of the incidents involved hate speech, spoken and written. Reports of bodily harm were relatively rare.

- Most common slurs: the “n” word, “build the wall,” and “go back to ________” (usually Mexico).

- The most common hate symbol: swastikas.

Source: Documenting Hate (Pro Publica and Education Week)
STRATEGIES FOR DISCUSSING IMMIGRATION IN THE CLASSROOM
TEACHING TOPICS

- People, Identity and Culture
- Immigration History and Current Day Issues
- Immigration Legislation
- Myths and Facts about Immigrants and Immigration
- Identity-Based Bullying
- Stereotyping and Scapegoating
- Anti-Immigrant Rhetoric, Bias and Incidents
- Acting as an Ally
- Advocacy and Activism
STRATEGIES

Children’s and YA Literature  Legislation
Personal Narratives  Current Events
History and Research  Bias, Hate and Discrimination
AGES AND STAGES

Elementary
- People, Identity and Culture
- Similarities and Differences
- Empathy

Middle School
- Understanding Immigration
- Current Events
- Bias and Bullying
- Acting as an Ally

High School
- Immigration Policy, Legislation
- Anti-immigrant Rhetoric, Incident and Bias
- Stereotyping and Scapegoating
- Advocacy and Activism
TIPS FOR INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT

Prepare yourself and your classroom

• Examine School & Class Demographics
• Representation
• Students & Families
• Personal Reflection
TIPS FOR INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT

Build inclusive and respectful culture in your classroom

• Ground Rules
• Explore Identity
• Define Bias & Discrimination
• Teach Empathy
TIPS FOR INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT

Enrich your curriculum with diverse perspectives and discussion of bias

• Media Literacy
• Mirrors & Windows
• Patterns in Society
• Invite Experts
EDUCATION RESOURCES ON IMMIGRATION, IMMIGRANTS AND ANTI-IMMIGRANT BIAS
EDUCATION RESOURCES

Education Resources on Immigration, Immigrants and Anti-Immigrant Bias
For Educators

The following education resources include lesson plans, children’s books, teaching tips and strategies, discussion guides for parents/family members and civil rights resources to help educators and others provide background and address the topics of immigration, immigrants and anti-immigrant bias and discrimination.

LESSON PLANS

- Hidden Mass or Second Class? Challenging Anti-Immigrant Bias in the U.S. (Grades 5-12)
- What Should We Do about DACA? (Grades 6-12)
- We Were Strangers Too: Learning about Refugees through Art (Grades 6-12)
- Who Are the Children at Our Borders? (Grades 7-12)
- Current Question Controversy (Grades 9-12)

Education Resources on Refugees, Muslim People and Anti-Muslim Bigotry
For Educators

There are 1.6 billion Muslim people worldwide and Islam is currently the second largest religion in the world next to Christianity. Despite the fact that there are so many Muslims in the world, in many places there is a lack of understanding about Muslim people. In addition, anti-Muslim bigotry—the fear, hatred and discrimination of Muslim people—is manifesting itself in personal biases, stereotyping, bullying, biased rhetoric, hate crimes and more.

The following education resources include lesson plans, children’s books, teaching tips and strategies, discussion guides for parents/family members and civil rights resources to help educators and others address the topics of Muslim people, anti-Muslim bigotry and refugees with young people.

LESSON PLANS

- The Muslim Ban and the Power of Protest (high school)
- Anti-Muslim Bigotry and Being an Ally (middle/high school)
- Identity-Based Bullying (elementary)
- Let’s Talk about the Presidential Election (middle/high school)

www.adl.org/education
LESSON PLANS: K-12

Huddled Mass or Second Class?: Challenging Anti-Immigrant Bias in the U.S.
GRADE LEVEL: Elementary School, Middle School, High School
COMMON CORE STANDARDS: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, Language

Why Are Families Being Separated and Detained at the Border?
GRADE LEVEL: High School
COMMON CORE STANDARDS: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, Language

Who Are the Children at Our Border?
GRADE LEVEL: Middle School, High School
COMMON CORE STANDARDS: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening

Anti-Muslim Bigotry and Being an Ally
GRADE LEVEL: Middle School, High School
COMMON CORE STANDARDS: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, Language

What is the Dream Act and Who Are the Dreamers?
GRADE LEVEL: High School
COMMON CORE STANDARDS: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening

We Were Strangers Too: Learning about Refugees through Art
GRADE LEVEL: Middle School, High School
COMMON CORE STANDARDS: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, Language

The 'Muslim Ban' and the Power of Protest
GRADE LEVEL: High School
COMMON CORE STANDARDS: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening

www.adl.org/lesson-plans
BOOKS MATTER: CHILDREN’S LITERATURE

www.adl.org/books-matter
TABLE TALK: FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDES

Family Separations and Detentions at the Border
Table Talk: Family Conversations about Current Events
For Parents, Families, and Caregivers

What is DACA and Who are the DREAMers?
Table Talk: Family Conversations about Current Events
For Educators, For Parents, Families, and Caregivers 11 and up

Refugees, Reactions and World Response
Table Talk: Family Conversations About Current Events
For Parents, Families, and Caregivers 12 and up

Why We Need Diverse Books
Table Talk: Family Conversations about Current Events
For Parents, Families, and Caregivers

What is the ‘Muslim Ban’?
Table Talk: Family Conversations about Current Events
For Parents, Families, and Caregivers

What Bullying Is and Is Not
Table Talk: Family Conversations About Current Events
For Educators, For Parents, Families, and Caregivers 7 and up

www.adl.org/table-talk
OTHER TEACHING TOOLS

11 Ways Schools Can Help Students Feel Safe in Challenging Times

In recent years, we have seen alarming images and biased language in schools and on campuses: name-calling, hate-filled threats, vandalism, racial slurs and epithets, offensive graffiti on desks and bathroom walls. In addition, many young people—especially those whose identities were targeted during the campaign—are fearful about their futures. Teachers have had to work overtime to create safe environments for students and provide resources to get help. Schools can be places where students feel safe, supported and engaged.

Helping Students Make Sense of News Stories about Bias and Injustice

For Educators

Myths and Facts About Immigrants and Immigration

For Educators

Myth #1: Immigrants are overrunning our country, and most are here illegally.

The Facts: It is true that there are more immigrants than there are U.S. citizens, but the percentage is much lower than people think.

Race Talk: Engaging Young People in Conversations about Race and Racism

For Educators

As a society, public conversations about race and racism have increased in recent months. Educators feel a sense of responsibility to bring these discussions into their classrooms—because young people need to be part of the conversation and because these discussions provide opportunities for students to learn.

Be An Ally: Six Simple Ways

For Educators • For Parents, Families, and Caregivers • For Students

Listen to the Voices of Immigrant and Muslim Youth

For Educators • For Parents, Families, and Caregivers • IMMIGRANTS & REFUGEE RIGHTS
FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT:

Kira Simon
Director of Training & Curriculum
ksimon@adl.org

Monica Bauer
Director, Hispanic Affairs
mbauer@adl.org

www.adl.org/education

@ADL_Education
THANK YOU