

Teaching Immigration Now:

"Identities and Stories as Teaching
and Community-building Tools"

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Immigrant Stories

- Share personal stories
 - Level of personal disclosure/vulnerability
- Identify common themes
- Build (community) on those themes

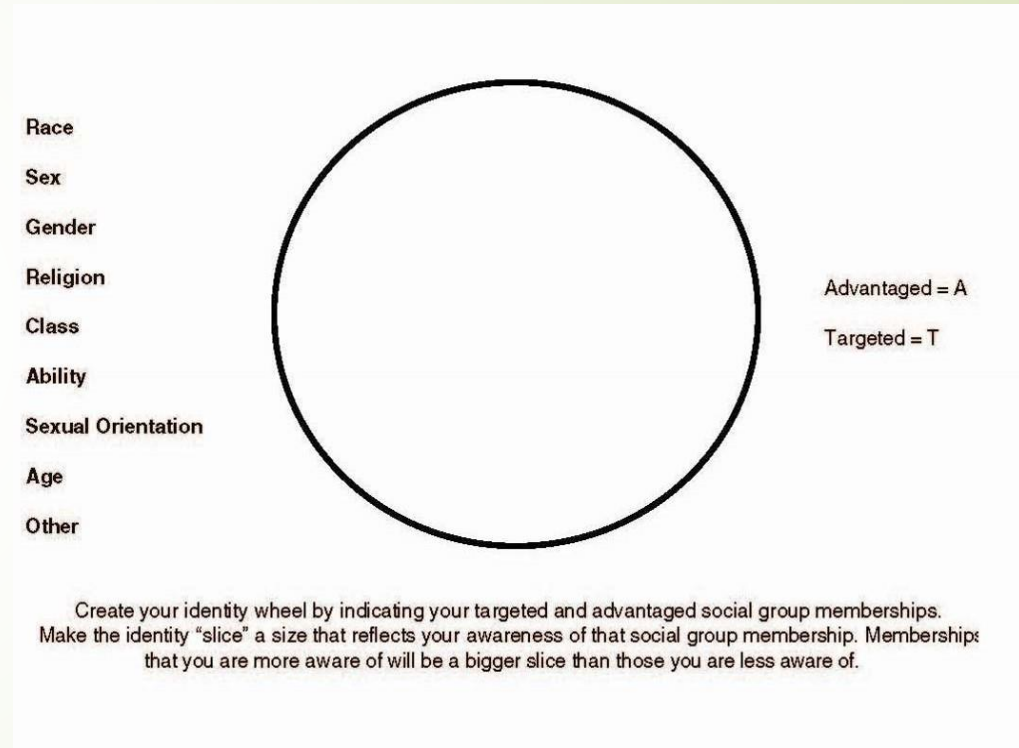


Teacher Professional Development

- Immigrant Stories and Identity
- Immigration Myths and Realities
- Immigration History

Immigrant Identity

- The circle of identity
- Is your immigration story part of your Identity?
- Target or Advantaged?





Immigration History

- Important landmarks of immigration history
- Important information about the immigration system
- Important concepts



Reclaiming the Narrative

Immigrant Learning Center

- **Lead with Values**
- **Talk Common Sense**
- **It's About All of Us**
- **Tell an Affirmative Story**
- **Emphasize Contribution, Solution, Action**



The lesson plan

- What are the learning objectives?
- What social justice questions can be addressed within the lesson?
- What content standards (reading/writing, ESOL) or CCRS (college and career readiness standards) will be integrated in the lesson?



The lesson plan

- Introduction – Tap prior knowledge about immigration
 - Look at a cartoon and react/answer questions
 - The cartoon also helps the teacher identify critical issues
- Reading – Personal narrative
 - Discussion – Is your story similar? How?
- Writing – Personal story
- Expansion – Common themes



Reading

- Pre-reading
 - Individual
- Reading
 - Reading Circles
- Post-reading

Writing Myself into America

(Jose Antonio Vargas)

- Immigration stories
- Identity stories
 - How did the immigrant journey affect your identity?
 - How does the current rhetoric affects your identity?

Resources

- Adams, M., Bell, L. & Griffin, P. (2007). *Teaching for Diversity and Social Justice, Second Edition*. New York: Routledge.
- Chomsky, A. (2014). *Undocumented: How immigration became illegal*. Boston: Beacon Press
- Nash, A. (Ed) (2006). *Through the lens of social justice: Using the Change Agent in Adult Education*. Boston: New England Literacy Resource Center.
- Vargas, J. A. (2018). *Dear America: Notes of an undocumented citizen*. NY: Day St. Books

- Define American www.DefineAmerican.com
- History of Immigration: <https://www.history.com/topics/immigration>
- The Change Agent: www.nelrc.org/changeagent

THANK YOU



Reimagine the Conversation

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