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

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Immigrant Identity

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

Create your identity wheel by indicating your targeted and advantaged social group memberships. Make the identity “slice” a size that reflects your awareness of that social group membership. Memberships that you are more aware of will be a bigger slice than those you are less aware of.
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


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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