Create welcoming classrooms

- Students learn best when they feel respected and welcomed, and that their opinion and effort matter.
- Examine your feelings, goals and intentions before planning a new lesson.
- Set ground rules, and clarify values before a discussion.
- Accept that all of us hold implicit biases, so seek out strategies to address bias.
- Lead by listening and giving students space to speak openly.
- When discussing immigration issues, remember that immigrant students may be emotionally affected by the discussion or have traumatic memories related to news stories.

Mental Health: Taking Care of Yourself and Loved Ones

- Respect differences in opinion, and understand that reasonable people may disagree with each other.
- Be available to talk to students privately if they have more questions or needs.

Place current events in context

- Teach accurate terminology, and the difference between words like “immigrant,” “refugee” and “asylum seeker.”
- The Language of Immigration and Politics
  - Show students how to access to various streams of information including primary and secondary sources.
  - Share historical perspectives. Much of the current rhetoric about immigration is a re-packaging of ideas that have been debated or debunked throughout U.S. history.

Build critical thinking skills

- When evaluating an information source, ask yourself who are the author, the subject and the intended audience, and how might their perspectives differ.
- Remember that certain language or vocabulary terms, even the word “migration” itself, may have specific meanings to different readers.
- Teach how to fact check like a pro with these techniques:
  - How to Read the News Like a Fact Checker

Teach immigration across curricula

- Human stories are usually told in social studies classes, but immigration is also relevant to art and music, as well as in science, literature and math. It’s also a great topic for extracurricular activities.
- Present immigration with appropriate context to engage in a more meaningful way and avoid trivializing its importance.
  - Classroom Connections: Immigration in the Curriculum