

IMMIGRATION



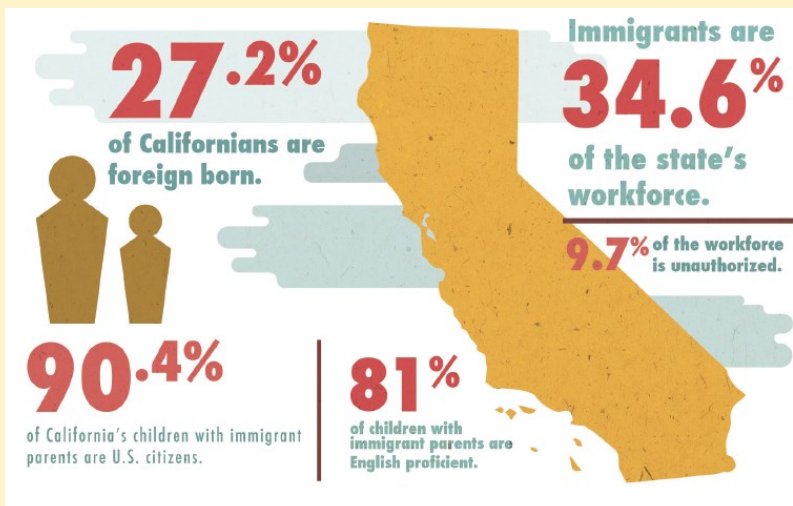
The United States is a multiethnic nation. Aside from Native Americans, everyone is an immigrant. Each year, approximately 700,000 to 1 million documented immigrants and 300,000 undocumented immigrants enter the U.S. The primary motivation is economic opportunity but other reasons include political stability, safety, and freedom.

Some people value our country's diversity and view it as a defining feature and strength. Other people dislike it and believe immigrants are threatening the American way of life.

Xenophobia refers to a fear of people from other countries. Often, the degree of xenophobia varies depending on economic conditions and labor demands. When people feel like their livelihood is at risk, they are more likely to fear foreigners and be against immigration.

CONSIDER THIS

Consider the following questions. Challenge yourself to think of answers from multiple perspectives, & to understand what might bias your response. Discuss these topics with someone else in your class.



Look at the picture to the left. What information in this infographic surprises you the most?

Many immigrants want to vote, work, get an education, and contribute to society. Yet, research demonstrates their options are limited. Should immigrants have the same opportunities as native-born Americans? If yes, how can we make this happen?

Do you think the U.S. is strengthened or harmed by immigrants? Should some groups be welcomed into the U.S. more than others? If yes, which groups and why?

How do you define the American way of life?

Data: https://www.advancingjustice-alc.org/news_and_media/new-americans-in-california-the-s-on-our-growing-numbers/

"[People think] that we were all getting freebies, we wanted our free stuff. I was like, 'No, I don't want free stuff, I just want my job and I'll work for my stuff.' We just want a piece of the pie, we don't want the crumbs anymore. And that's what they don't wanna give us. It really bothers them that we want that, even though they're not willing to do the same kinds of things that a lot of minorities are willing to do in order to survive. You know, all this stuff, deporting all these people and create more room for American jobs. Really? Are you gonna stand out there and pick strawberries all day, in the sun? Are you gonna go down to the Imperial Valley in the summer and pick lettuce, when it's like 110 degrees, and like barely any shade? They had to fight to try to make sure that farmers provided shade for workers. Which is like, it's almost inhumane. And yet, that really is freeing up American jobs." — Lisa

"Given the rhetoric of politics now, it is easy for people to [think] illegals are taking our jobs, they're using our resources and stuff. I guess if you just don't know anyone, I can see how that can play a role, but I think hopefully getting to know someone, with my [undocumented immigrant] status can open their eyes to the fact that I've paid taxes every year since I started working. I mean, our president hasn't even paid taxes. I've paid more taxes than our current president. It baffles me and it's just so frustrating to think about that. I don't think, I know anyone in my family that uses welfare, or that has used services like that. Or that are in unemployment. Everyone that I know pays taxes, it's just something that you do. You have a social security, you use it, and you pay taxes on it. We are contributing to this country." — Juzlia

CALL TO ACTION