Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Public Policy: Immigration

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| Working individually, define immigration. | Discuss your definition with a partner near you. Together identify separate criteria for what you think is legal and illegal immigration. Explain. | Choose a new partner. In your opinion, why have immigration laws changed as various point of United States History? Should we make changes to our current immigration laws. |

**Read the following perspectives and answer the question:**

Upfront Magazine “The Great Immigration Debate”

Most Americans agree that the nation’s immigration system needs fixing. But Congress has been unable to pass immigration reform. The major sticking point has been what to do with the 11 million immigrants who are already in the United States illegally. Most Democrats, including President Obama, favor allowing undocumented immigrants to take steps to legalize their status and ultimately become U.S. citizens. But critics, including many Republicans, say that offering a “path to citizenship” is essentially giving amnesty to lawbreakers. Immigration reform is already an issue in the 2016 presidential campaign.

**YES (Senator Charles Schumer, Democrat, New York)**

Our immigration system is badly broken. Far too many people illegally cross our borders, and we turn away too many people who want to legally enter our country—people who could invent new technologies, create jobs, and boost our economy.

Perhaps the greatest challenge to immigration reform is this knotty question: What do we do with the 11 million undocumented people who live in the shadows, fearing deportation each day, most of them working to earn their sons and daughters a chance at the American Dream?

The status quo is unsustainable. Without reform, our immigration laws threaten to tear apart families and force our government to expend precious resources to deport millions. Without reform, these 11 million continue to live in a state of uncertainty and fear. The vast majority of them want to get right by the law, but there is no achievable pathway for them to do so.

That’s why I’ve been fighting to pass immigration reform. We need to modernize and fix our immigration system, to ensure that the door to America remains as open to future generations as it was for our ancestors. We also need to give the millions of undocumented workers a chance to settle their debt to society and earn legal status.

In 2013, the Senate passed a bill that would have done just that. Our reform bill would have established a tough but fair pathway to citizenship. By fulfilling reasonable requirements such as paying fines, learning English, and waiting their turn to be considered, these immigrants could become law-abiding citizens.

Unfortunately, the House of Representatives never even voted on this comprehensive immigration reform bill.

From my home in Brooklyn, I can see the Statue of Liberty, which welcomed my ancestors so many years ago. That statue is a symbol of hope to the world. For it to remain so, we must keep fighting to pass immigration reform, including a solution for undocumented immigrants who are already here.

**NO (Congressman Steve King, Republican, Iowa)**

A pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants is blanket amnesty that not only pardons those who’ve broken the law, but also rewards them. Rewarding lawbreakers by handing them the very thing they’re after can only encourage more people to break the law.

In 1986, President Ronald Reagan tried this approach. At the time, I opposed the legislation that ultimately provided amnesty to 3 million immigrants who were in the U.S. illegally. Reagan said the measure was a one-time offer and that after that, the country’s immigration laws would be vigorously enforced so there would no longer be a problem of a large population of people living here illegally.

That’s not what happened then, and it’s not what would happen now if we tried another round of amnesty.

With hindsight, we can see clearly that the 1986 law did not solve America’s illegal immigration problem. The U.S.-Mexico border was not strictly patrolled, and in the three decades since, the number of immigrants who have crossed illegally has soared to 11 million.

Rather than arbitrarily welcoming as citizens whoever happens to have snuck across the border, we should be thinking about what we want America to look like in 2050. How many immigrants do we want, and what kind of job skills and education do we want them to have? Those are some of the considerations that should inform any immigration reform we enact.

I oppose providing a pathway to citizenship because you can’t offer incentives for breaking the law without expecting more laws to be broken. It’s a basic law of economics: When you reward a behavior, you get more of it; when you punish something, you get less of it.

If we want to solve America’s problem with illegal immigration, we should punish those who break the law. We should systematically deport all those who are living in the U.S. illegally. Doing so would restore the rule of law and finally solve the problem.



Where they come from:

1. Mexico - 6.8 million

2. El Salvador - 660,000

3. Guatemala - 520,000

4. Honduras - 380,000

5. China - 280,000



**27%   :** PERCENTAGE of the 42 million immigrants in the U.S. who are undocumented.

**8 million:**    NUMBER of undocumented immigrants in the U.S. workforce.

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| In complete sentences explain whether undocumented immigrants should be granted a pathway to citizenship. |

**Using your prior knowledge, do your best to answer the following questions:**

1. There are currently \_\_\_\_\_\_ million illegal immigrants living in the United States.

2. The two main reasons employers hire illegal immigrants for jobs that require unskilled workers are:

A.

B.

3. The number of illegal immigrants that enter the U.S. each year is about \_\_\_\_\_ million.

4. The majority of illegal immigrants come from which country? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. The reason most illegal immigrants come to the U.S. is:

6. The average American wage exceeds the average Mexican wage by \_\_\_\_\_\_ times.

7. The five states with the highest number of illegal immigrants are:

A. B. C. D. E.

8. The industries that most commonly hire illegal immigrants are:

A. B. C. D.

9. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ percent of people in America under the age of 65 speak a language other than English in their homes.

10. \_\_\_\_\_ percent of all births in the U.S. are to illegal immigrants.

**Part 1: Varying Opinions About Illegal Immigrants in the U.S.**

**Section 1: Illegal Immigrants in the U.S.  
Excerpted from Online NewsHour “Building Up the Border” on 2/15/06 http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/latin\_america/jan-june06/fences\_2-15.html**

*“When asked why they were making the trip, many here echoed the words of Luis Valdez. He's a father of three from central Mexico who was about to attempt his first illegal crossing into the United States.*

*LUIS VALDEZ (Translated): I have to go there to work. I need to get there to get ahead a bit in life for the sake of my family.*

*JEFFREY KAYE: Some deportees here told us that enhanced border security has discouraged them from trying to enter the U.S. again. Other migrants said they'd go around the fences and agents and try to cross the border in more remote and dangerous areas.*

*Rafael Rigos, who says he's almost died in the past crossing illegally into the U.S., is familiar with the perils.*

*RAFAEL RIGOS (Translated): The mountains make it easy to get lost if you don't know the way. But the biggest danger is lack of water. If you run out of water, you're done.*

*JEFFREY KAYE: Last year, nearly 500 people died trying to cross the deserts and mountains of the U.S.- Mexico border. It was the largest annual migrant death toll ever recorded by the U.S. Border Patrol.*

*JEFFREY KAYE: At Casa Del Migrante, migrants say as long as desperation and poverty exist in Mexico and Central America, no amount of fences will stem the human tide of illegal immigration.*

*RAFAEL RIGOS (Translated): You can have a third or a fourth fence but it is not going to change anything. People are going to keep coming.”*

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| Summarize the point of view from section 1: |

**Section 2: U.S. Citizens Against Illegal Immigrants  
Excerpted from Online NewsHour “Rallying for Rights” on 4/10/06 http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/latin\_america/jan-june06/immigration\_4-10.html**

*But these huge pro-immigrant rallies also have brought out critics.*

1 www.pbs.org/newshour/extra

*UNIDENTIFIED MALE 1: I am tired of people coming across with impunity. We don't know who is here. We don't know what diseases they have.*

*UNIDENTIFIED MALE 2: There's 360 million Americans that need to start standing up for their country, before we give it away.*

*KWAME HOLMAN: In Tucson, Arizona, on Sunday, anti-immigrant members of a group called The Border Guardians set fire to a Mexican flag.*

**Excerpted from abcnews.com “Rallies Called to Make Illegals Legal” on 4/10/06 http://abcnews.go.com/GMA/story?id=1825363&page=1&CMP=OTC-RSSFeeds0312**

*“...Michelle Dellacroce, of Mothers Against Illegal Aliens, feel that American children are adversely—an unfairly—affected by this kind of illegal immigration.*

*‘They’re not happy with what they have in their country. They want to come here illegally and then put their children into our schools so that we pay for their children’s education and that needs to stop,’ Dellacroce said. ‘My taxes pay for the education of my children to go to that school. My children should be learning the education in the public schools in English, not in two separate languages.’*

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| Summarize the point of view from section 2: |

**Section 3: Employers Hiring Illegal Immigrants  
Excerpted from Online NewsHour “Immigration Debate” on 3/31/06 http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/congress/jan-june06/immigration\_3-31.html**

*RAY SUAREZ: Dean Baker, it's a commonplace in President Bush's speeches that illegal immigrants take jobs Americans will not do; is it true?*

*DEAN BAKER: Well, you have to add one more clause to that: at the wages that are being offered. If you look at the situation of less-skilled workers, workers with just a high school education, particularly those who are high school dropouts, their wages have gone nowhere over the last quarter-century.*

*And part of that story is because they have to compete with immigrants coming in who are willing to accept those jobs at much, much lower wages. A lot of people may not be willing to take jobs at the minimum wage or a little bit above, but they would certainly be willing to take the jobs in the meat- processing factories, in restaurants, you know, go down the list of occupations where we see a lot of immigrant labors.*

*If those jobs offered $15, $20 an hour and paid health care, you would have lots of native-born workers who are very happy to take those jobs. So the story has been that we've seen the wages depressed in a large number of jobs, so, yes, native-born workers aren't willing to take those jobs anymore. But we have to get the wages up; that's the key.*

*RAY SUAREZ: Dan Griswold, is the president right that illegal immigrants are taking jobs that Americans will not do?*

*DANIEL GRISWOLD, Cato Institute: The president is right. And companies just can't raise wages willy- nilly; they're restrained ultimately by what customers are willing to pay on the other end. If wages go up, customers will turn away from the higher prices, and those industries will shrink.*

2 www.pbs.org/newshour/extra

*You know, where is the line of Americans waiting to pick lettuce in the noonday sun all day or to scrub toilets all night at a discount store? They're just not there. This is honorable work, but it's hard work. And I think we should allow immigrants to come in and take those jobs that Americans simply don't want.*

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| Summarize the point of view from section 3: |

**Section 4: Legal Immigrants  
Excerpted from Online NewsHour “Rallying for Rights” on 4/10/06 http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/latin\_america/jan-june06/immigration\_4-10.html**

*KWAME HOLMAN: One of those marching in Washington today was legal immigrant Saul Soloranzo of El Salvador.*

*SAUL SOLORANZO, Salvadoran: Today, we are here to present our voice and our petition for a legalization program, because so many immigrants are helping this country. Our labor is needed and is recognized, but -- so, the status of the people here should be recognized.*

*But many on the march in Washington today argued that immigrants should be recognized for their valuable contributions to American society.*

*Salvadoran Jamie Guray has been in the U.S. for more than 20 years.*

*JAMIE GURAY, Salvadoran: We're here to protect our immigration rights and also to show that we are also contributing to this country in a major way: economically. We're a major economic force in the United States. And we -- and we contribute culturally to this society.*

*YANIRA MERINO: Well, I mean, we want to give a message that one of the reasons that we're out there is because we are saying, we want to be American citizens.*

*We're here. We work. We have families. Most likely, we are going to end up staying in this country, because we already have roots in those communities.*

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| Summarize the point of view from section 4: |