
SERVING AND SUPPORTING ELL AND IMMIGRANT STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

WITH TEACHING TOLERANCE



TEACHING TOLERANCE

A PROJECT OF THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER

ABOUT TEACHING TOLERANCE

■ www.tolerance.org

- Project of the Southern Poverty Law Center addressing issues of Social Justice and Anti-Bias.
- Provides free resources to educators and other practitioners who work with children from kindergarten through high school. Use our materials to supplement curriculum, to inform your practices, and to create civil and inclusive school communities where children are respected, valued and welcome participants.
- Register for an account.
- Sign up for the newsletter.
- Magazine mailed twice a year to addresses in the United States.

TEN MYTHS ABOUT IMMIGRATION

**What do
our
students
and patrons
believe?**



**What do
we
believe?**

- 
- Debunk the misinformation students bring—and help them think for themselves.

I. MOST IMMIGRANTS ARE HERE ILLEGALLY.



- With so much controversy around the issue of immigrants who are undocumented, it's easy to overlook the fact that **most of the foreign-born people living in the United States followed the rules and have permission to be here.**

2. IT'S EASY TO ENTER THE COUNTRY LEGALLY. MY ANCESTORS DID; WHY CAN'T IMMIGRANTS TODAY?

- Today many rules specify who may enter and remain in the country legally. **There is also a rigorous process for obtaining documentation to enter the United States as a resident**, including applying for immigrant visas and permanent resident/green-card status.



3. TODAY'S IMMIGRANTS DON'T WANT TO LEARN ENGLISH.

- While most first-generation immigrants may speak their first language at home, 35 percent of those age 5 or older speak English “very well” and 21 percent speak it “well,” according to the U.S. Census Bureau. **Immigrants must speak, read, write and understand the English language, not only for the naturalization application process, but also so they can pass a 100-question civics test that has both oral and written components.**



4. IMMIGRANTS TAKE GOOD JOBS FROM U.S. CITIZENS.



- According to the American Immigration Council, a nonpartisan group, research indicates **there is little connection between immigrant labor and unemployment rates of native-born workers.**

5. “THE WORST” PEOPLE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES ARE COMING TO THE UNITED STATES AND BRINGING CRIME AND VIOLENCE.

- Immigrants come to this country for a few primary reasons: to work, to be reunited with family members or to escape a dangerous situation. Most are couples, families with children, and workers who are integral to the U.S. economy. **Statistics show that immigrants are less likely to commit serious crimes than native-born people are, and high rates of immigration are associated with lower rates of violent crime and property crime.**



6. UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS DON'T PAY TAXES AND BURDEN THE NATIONAL ECONOMY.

- **Immigrants who are undocumented pay taxes every time they buy taxable goods** such as gas, clothes or new appliances (depending on where they reside). **They also contribute to property taxes**—a main source of school funding—when they buy or rent a house or apartment.



7. THE UNITED STATES IS BEING OVERRUN BY IMMIGRANTS LIKE NEVER BEFORE.

- Since the start of the recession in 2008, **the number of immigrants without documentation coming into the country has fallen each year** and, in more recent years, the number has stabilized.



8. WE CAN STOP UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS COMING TO THE UNITED STATES BY BUILDING A WALL ALONG THE BORDER WITH MEXICO.

- Immigrants who enter the United States across the United States-Mexico border without authorization could be from any number of geographical areas. The majority of unauthorized immigrants in the United States are from Mexico, but their estimated number—5.8 million in 2014—has declined by approximately 500,000 people since 2009. Populations of immigrants who are undocumented increased from Asia, Central America and sub-Saharan Africa. **So, a wall along the border with Mexico would not “stop” undocumented immigrants from coming to the United States.**



9. BANNING IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES FROM MAJORITY-MUSLIM COUNTRIES WILL PROTECT THE UNITED STATES FROM TERRORISTS.

- An executive order, issued by President Donald Trump in March 2017, blocked the entry of citizens from six Muslim-majority countries for 90 days, ostensibly to protect Americans from terrorism. The title of this executive order, "Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into the United States," seems to equate the people most affected by the ban—Muslims—with the term foreign terrorists, implying that barring Muslims from entry would protect the United States from harm. **However, between 1975 and 2015, no fatalities have been committed in the United States by foreign-born extremists from the countries covered by the executive order.**

10. REFUGEES ARE NOT SCREENED BEFORE ENTERING THE UNITED STATES.

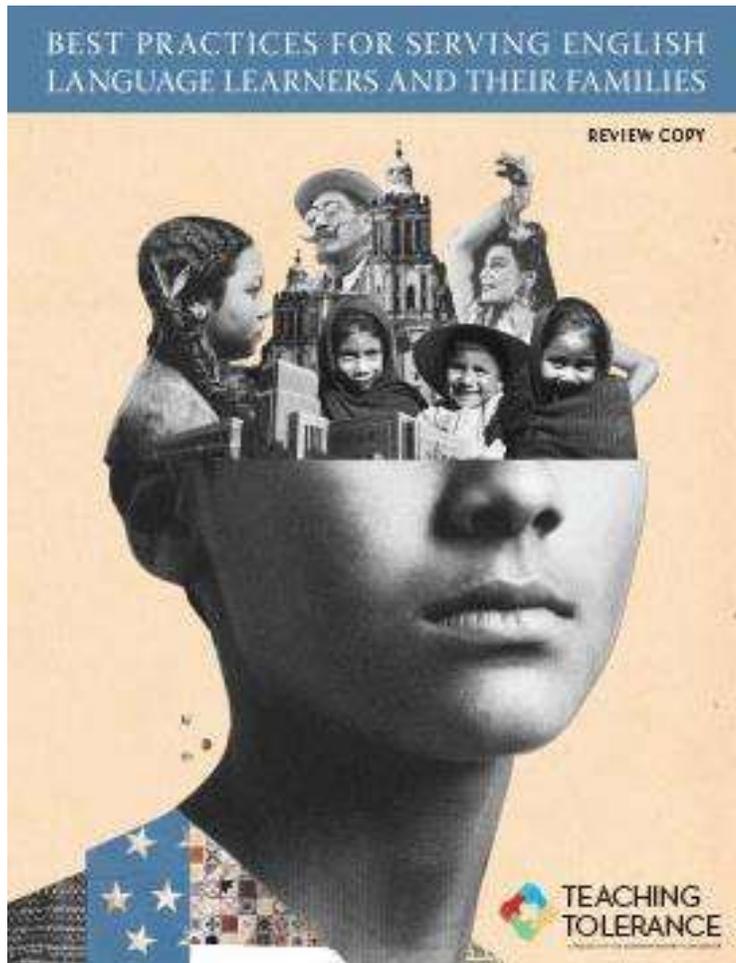
- **Refugees undergo more rigorous screenings than any other individuals the government allows in the United States.** It remains an extremely lengthy and rigorous process, which includes multiple background checks; fingerprint tests; interviews; health screenings; and applications with multiple intelligence, law enforcement and security agencies. **The average length of time it takes for the United Nations and the United States government to approve refugee status is 18 to 24 months.**



WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH TT?

- The new tolerance.org makes it easy to browse professional development and classroom resources that can help you improve your school's or organization's climate and help students navigate the complexities of our times.
- YOU CAN NOW ...
- • Search hundreds of FREE short texts.
- • Apply for a grant.
- • Share materials with other educators.
- • Get alerts whenever we add new content.

PUBLICATIONS



A comprehensive and culturally responsive approach to serving English Language Learners and their families.

MAGAZINE ARTICLES



Why Mendez Still Matters

Meet the school desegregation case that still affects ELL instruction today.

BY JOSH MOON

INFORMATIONAL TEXTS

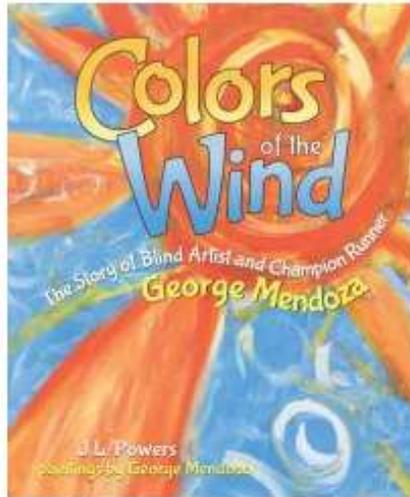
TEXT

What is a Sanctuary City Anyway?

Naomi Tsu, an attorney at the Southern Poverty Law Center, answers questions about sanctuary cities.

Author: Naomi Tsu | Grade Level: 9-12

BOOK REVIEWS – CULTURALLY AWARE LITERATURE



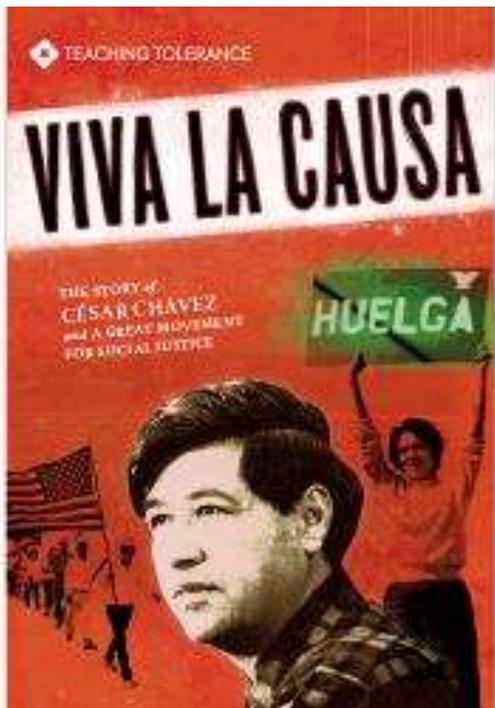
As a child, George Mendoza dreamed of becoming an athlete, but when he was diagnosed with a degenerative eye disease at age 15, George wondered if his dream was possible. *Colors of the Wind* shows how George overcame his fears and set the world record in the mile for blind runners. Along the way, George also discovered his talent for painting and became a world-renowned artist.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

“Mendoza’s story and artwork will help students believe that anything is possible.”

JARAH BOTELLO

FILM KITS



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