Education Resources on Immigration, Immigrants and Anti-Immigrant Bias

The following education resources include lesson plans, children's books, teaching tips and strategies, discussion guides for parents/family members and civil rights resources to help educators, parents and family members, and others provide background and address the topics of immigration, immigrants and anti-immigrant bias and discrimination.

Lesson Plans

LESSON PLAN

Understanding and Analyzing "The U.S. of Us" by Richard Blanco

MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL

LESSON PLAN

Conditions in Detention Centers at the U.S. Border

HIGH SCHOOL

The humanitarian crisis at the U.S. border has worsened. Use this lesson to explore with students the experiences of migrants seeking asylum, the conditions of the detention facilities and identify actions to address the crisis.
The Justice Department’s request to add citizenship question to the 2020 Census causes a great deal of controversy. In this lesson, students gain insight about the U.S. Census and the controversy by developing a potential School Census.

Huddled Mass or Second Class?: Challenging Anti-Immigrant Bias in the U.S.
This K-12 curriculum unit helps students understand the experiences of immigrants and the negative effects of anti-immigrant bias, appreciate the integral role that immigrants have always played in U.S. life and what they can do to challenge discrimination on personal and institutional levels.

 LESSON PLAN

'Migrant Caravan' and the People Seeking Asylum

HELP SCHOOL

Help high school students understand political asylum as they explore the concept of a caravan and the stories of migrants fleeing persecution, poverty and violence.
LESSON PLAN

What Should Be Done about DACA?

MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL

Teach middle and high school students how they can voice their thoughts with Congress on what should be done about DACA and DREAMers. In this lesson, students learn about DREAMers/DACA recipients and reflect on what it means to be “American.”

LESSON PLAN

Sanctuary Cities and Non-Violent Resistance

Official White House Photo by Pete Souza
HIGH SCHOOL

This lesson teaches high school students the meaning, purpose and outcomes of sanctuary cities and nonviolent resistance, both currently and throughout history. Students develop a call-to-action speech for implementing nonviolent resistance related to issues important to them.

LESSON PLAN

We Were Strangers Too: Learning about Refugees through Art

MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL

This lesson uses artwork produced by artists all over the world to help middle and high school students deepen their understanding of the refugee crisis and promote empathy for what it means to be a “stranger.”
In this lesson, high school students learn about the DREAM Act—its background, history, current status—and reflect on different perspectives about it as well as develop their own.

**What is the Dream Act and Who Are the Dreamers?**

In this lesson, high school students learn about the DREAM Act—its background, history, current status—and reflect on different perspectives about it as well as develop their own.

**Who Are the Children at Our Border?**

Carlos Amador / CC BY-NC 2.0
This lesson provides middle and high school students an opportunity to learn about the unaccompanied children at our border, reasons why they seek entry to the United States and reflect on what to do about this situation.

LESSON PLAN

Why Are Families Being Separated and Detained at the Border?

Family separations and detentions are happening at the U.S. border. This lesson plan helps students understand the issue, learn about asylum and consider their own opinions.
Resources for Educators, Parents and Family Members

TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

6 Ways to Be an Ally (en Español)
Six simple things youth can do to be an ally to targets of name-calling and bullying.

BLOG

Diverse and Complex Narratives Cultivate Empathy and Action
A new study from Define American highlights the importance of narrative stories as a catalyst for fostering empathy and motivating action; the learning can be applied to other narratives used in the classroom.
There have been horrific stories of children being ripped from their parents at the border. Discuss with your youth what they have heard, how they feel about the situation, what it means to seek asylum and how they can help. *(Ages 11 and up)*

**TOOLS AND STRATEGIES**

**Family Separations and Detentions at the Border**

There have been horrific stories of children being ripped from their parents at the border. Discuss with your youth what they have heard, how they feel about the situation, what it means to seek asylum and how they can help. *(Ages 11 and up)*
Helping Students Make Sense of News Stories about Bias and Injustice

When there are national news stories that involve incidents of bias and injustice, young people want to be part of the conversation.

Listen to the Voices of Immigrant and Muslim Youth

It is important to listen to voices of young immigrants in order to understand their fears, their experiences, their plight and their humanity so that we can promote school communities that respect, protect and fight for them.
Refugees from Syria have been leaving their homes in search of safety and assistance. Use these tips and strategies to have family conversations with youth about the refugee crisis. *(Ages 12 and up)*

**TOOLS AND STRATEGIES**

**Refugees, Reactions and World Response**

Refugees from Syria have been leaving their homes in search of safety and assistance. Use these tips and strategies to have family conversations with youth about the refugee crisis. *(Ages 12 and up)*

**TOOLS AND STRATEGIES**

**What is DACA and Who Are the DREAMers?**

Have a family discussion about the Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, what it means to be 'American' and the consequences if DACA is eliminated.
Children's Literature (Ages 11 and up)

In an age of disinformation and bigotry, misconceptions about immigrants and anti-immigrant hate have spread throughout American politics and society. This resource contains information and sources that set the record straight and will hopefully help mitigate the damage caused by disinformation about immigrants.

FACT SHEETS

Eight Facts About Immigrants and Immigration

In an age of disinformation and bigotry, misconceptions about immigrants and anti-immigrant hate have spread throughout American politics and society. This resource contains information and sources that set the record straight and will hopefully help mitigate the damage caused by disinformation about immigrants.

Children's Literature

Undocumented: A Worker's Fight

Juan grew up in Mexico working in the fields to help provide for his family. Struggling for money, he crosses over into the U.S. and becomes an undocumented worker, living in a poor neighborhood, working hard to survive.
Areli is a Dreamer

When Areli was just a baby, her mama and papa moved from Mexico to New York with her brother, Alex, to make a better life for the family—and when she was in kindergarten, they sent for her, too.

Dreamers

This book is an exploration of what people who are immigrants bring with them when they leave their homes.
The Boy at the Back of the Class

This story about the refugee crisis highlights the community-changing potential of standing as an ally and reminds readers that everyone deserves a place to call home.

Amina’s Voice

While Amina, a Pakistani-American middle school student, grapples with questions of friendship and identity, she is devastated when her local mosque is vandalized. This book highlights the many ways in which one girl’s voice can help bring a diverse community together.
Front Desk

It will take all of Mia's courage, kindness and hard work to get through this year. Will she be able to hold on to her job, help the immigrants and guests, escape Mr. Yao and go for her dreams?

Gaby, Lost and Found
When Gaby Ramirez Howard starts volunteering at the local animal shelter, she takes special pride in writing adoption advertisements. Gaby is in need of a forever home herself because her mother recently was deported to Honduras.

**CHILDREN’S LITERATURE**

**Same Sun Here**

With honesty and humor and narrated in two voices, Meena and River bridge the miles between them, creating a friendship that inspires bravery and defeats cultural misconceptions.
The Year of the Rat

The Year of the Rat brings many changes for Pacy: her best friend moving away, dealing with the prejudice directed toward a new student from China and learning to face some of her own flaws.

Civil Rights Resources

ARTICLE

ADL’s Commitment to Meaningful Immigration Reform

Through legislative advocacy, litigation and public awareness campaigns, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) has promoted fair and humane immigration policies since its founding in...

REPORTS

Mainstreaming Hate: The Anti-Immigrant Movement in the U.S.

Anti-immigrant fervor, once relegated to more extreme quarters, has been increasingly mainstreamed over the last ten years. Over the last two years, with the advent of a new administration focused on much stricter immigration policies and complementary executive actions, anti-immigrant and anti-refugee sentiment has made life substantially more difficult for all immigrants. Read ADL’s latest report.