

**TOPIC:** US Immigration Policies

**GENERAL PURPOSE:** *To persuade*

**SPECIFIC PURPOSE:** The US should remain a country that provides refuge to those seeking safety or a better life.

**CENTRAL IDEAS:** (*three main points*).

- 1) A brief history of immigration in the US.
- 2) Politics on different sides of the immigration debate. Current immigration policies.  
Current policies on illegal immigration.
- 3) How immigrants have contributed to our country and why we should be an immigrant-friendly country.

**RESEARCH:**

*Three Credible Internet Sources:*

**Hamilton, Valerie. “California’s undocumented workers help the economy grow - but may pay the cost”. *PRI.org*, Public Radio International’s The World, 6 Mar. 2017. [www.pri.org/stories/2017-03-06/californias-undocumented-workers-help-grow-economy-there-cost](http://www.pri.org/stories/2017-03-06/californias-undocumented-workers-help-grow-economy-there-cost). Accessed 9 November 2017.**

This story discusses the impact of undocumented workers in California’s agriculture industry. This industry relies heavily on undocumented labor. This story addresses perspectives held by some that undocumented workers are “stealing” jobs from white americans.

I would use this story as an example of how undocumented immigrants impact the agricultural industry in California in my third main point. They have a huge impact on California’s economy as a result.

**Demby, Gene. “Why Sanctuary Cities are Safer”. *NPR.org*, National Public Radio, 29 Jan. 2017.**

[www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2017/01/29/512002076/why-sanctuary-cities-are-safer](http://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2017/01/29/512002076/why-sanctuary-cities-are-safer).  
Accessed 9 November 2017.

This article discusses the safety and economic health of sanctuary cities. The author summarizes data that indicates that sanctuary cities are safer and have stronger economies than non-sanctuary cities.

I would use this article in my third point to support my argument that immigrant-friendly policies are good for our country. The studies referenced in this article indicate that sanctuary cities are safer and have stronger economies, which would contradict much of the current political discourse over immigration.

**“Immigration Timeline”**. Libertyellisfoundation.org, *The Statue of Liberty - Ellis Island Foundation, Inc.* [www.libertyellisfoundation.org/immigration-timeline](http://www.libertyellisfoundation.org/immigration-timeline). Accessed 5 Nov 2017.

This website gives an overview of the history of immigration in the US, the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.

I would use the historical information in my first main point. The symbolism of the Statue of liberty would be a useful remark in the third point when discussing how our political views on immigration can shape what it means to be an American. The question of American identity would be tied into the conclusion as well.

*Two Credible Sources in Print:*

**Wong, Tom K.** *The Politics of Immigration : Partisanship, Demographic Change, and American National Identity*. Oxford University Press, 2017.

This book summarizes the current political deadlock between republicans and democrats on the issue of immigration in the US. The author argues that the issue of immigration is not limited to an argument over how many people to let into this country, rather it goes to the very question of what it means to be an American.

This book would be useful in all three of the main points in this speech, so I would use it a few times. Specifically, for the first main point, I would use it to describe the evolution of the demographic landscape of the US. To support my second main point, I would use this book to discuss how immigration has affected the electorate in this country. I would mention that 70,000 Hispanic/Latino and Asian citizens turn 18 every month and can therefore vote.

**Abrajano, Marisa and Zoltan L. Hajnal. *White Backlash: Immigration, Race, and American Politics*. Princeton University Press, 2017.**

This book discusses the reshaping of politics as a result of the growing immigrant portion of the electorate. It postulates that the fear of white americans have lead to political backlash and a greater racial divide in politics. The author argues that “in order to fully understand how broadly immigration is transforming US politics, we need to examine the attitudes and actions of the white population.”

This resource would help develop my second main point. I would use it to discuss how politics in the US is affected by immigration. I would mention that white domination is on the decline, and that “by the midpoint of the twenty-first century, whites are, in fact, expected to no longer be the majority.” In the third main point, I would discuss negative attitudes towards immigrants. According to the authors “recent polls suggest that well over half of white Americans feel that immigrants are a burden on the nation, a slight majority think that Latinos add to the crime problem, and about half believe they take jobs away from Americans”. I would explain how these sentiments contribute to growing nativist views that plague America.

*Three Other Credible Sources:*

**“Federation for Immigration Reform”. *SPLC Southern Poverty Law Center, splcenter.org. [www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/group/federation-american-immigration-reform](http://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/group/federation-american-immigration-reform). Accessed 11 Nov 2017.***

The Southern Poverty Law Center is an nonprofit organization that specializes in civil rights litigation. This particular page of the website identifies a group called Federation for Immigration Reform as a hate group that is strongly anti-immigration (legal or illegal).

I would use this website to gather some opposing viewpoints in order to contrast them to pro-immigration information. This would be most applicable to the second main point.

**“Immigrant Justice”. *SPLC Southern Poverty Law Center, splcenter.org. [www.splcenter.org/issues/immigrant-justice](http://www.splcenter.org/issues/immigrant-justice). Accessed 11 Nov 2017.***

As stated above, the SPLC is a non-profit organization that seeks to protect civil rights through litigation. This webpage addresses protections for immigrants.

This webpage discusses how immigrants are being used as scapegoats in political propaganda. I would use this in my second main point.

**Green, Matthew. "How the Kate Steinle Murder Case Thrust Sanctuary Cities into the National Spotlight". *KQED.org*, KQED News, 25 Oct. 2017, [ww2.kqed.org/lowdown/2017/10/25/explainer-what-are-sanctuary-cities/](http://ww2.kqed.org/lowdown/2017/10/25/explainer-what-are-sanctuary-cities/). Accessed 13 Nov 2017**

This article discusses the use of the tragic murder of Kate Steinle as a political tool to stir up fear of immigrants. It defines what a sanctuary city is and how many there are. It also discusses studies that show sanctuary cities are actually safer than non-sanctuary cities.

I would use this article to highlight the fact that politicians (such as Trump) used this murder as a talking point to stir up fear of immigrants and call into question the safety of sanctuary cities. This would be used in my third main point.