



THE TASK

You have both a number and a color. When you do the research, follow the topic that corresponds to the number that you are given. You will have **20 minutes** to do the research. Then you will break into your color groups which will include at least one person from each topic (number). You will share the information you found as a result of your research. You will all fill out your question sheets with the information from each topic.

Please do NOT print the pages you look up. You need to read them, and then to note down the important facts. You will only have a few minutes to inform your color group about the material you have looked up. There is no time to read the articles to them.

El Norte

We will be watching a movie called "El Norte" It was made in the 1980's and is about a Guatemalan brother and sister who sneak across Mexico and across the border into the US. They are escaping the civil war in their country and the reality that they will be killed if they stay. This is a very one sided and somewhat dated version of the issues of illegal immigration. Nevertheless, it humanizes the issue, and gives us a view of what the illegal immigrant has to contend with, from leaving home, crossing the border and trying to survive in a culture where they are certainly alien.

This is a huge issue in our country at this point in time. Here in Montana, we are less affected by the ramifications of illegal immigration. However, in the southern border states the issue is so explosive that they are calling for government action. And that means that as Americans, we need to inform ourselves of the issues surrounding illegal immigration. Ask your parents, your other teachers and other adults you respect to tell you their opinion of illegal immigration issues. You'll get many different views on the issue. See if you can develop your own. At the end of the movie I will ask you to refer to the movie and the articles you read and heard about, and ask you to present the issues and propose a solution.

Group 1: Definition and Causes

Illegal immigration has many causes and effects. This wikipedia site explores the many issues surrounding illegal immigration. Scroll down and read titles of the different topics. This gives you an idea of the many reasons for and effects of illegal immigration. Make a list of the reasons for illegal immigration. Be sure you can define them for your classmates. This means you may have to read the article. Then read the article entitled "Wars and Asylum" which will relate to the movie we are about to see. Then scroll down further and read Dangers. Make a list of the dangers, with a brief explanation if necessary.

Illegal Immigration: What is it?

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illegal_immigration

Group 2: Problems for the Host Country

Illegal immigration is a problem for the host countries. Open this article. On the left side is the table of contents. Write the "impacts" that are listed there to get an idea of what this article sees as the issues of illegal immigration. Then choose 3 or 4 of the units to read about. Keep in mind that this site is very biased. As you read it, think critically about the "facts" and numbers they use to sustain their arguments. These may not be very accurate, but the issues themselves do exist. The very fact that this type of article is written tells us that the issue of illegal immigrants is becoming more and more volatile in our country.

The Dark Side of Illegal Immigration

The Dark Side of Illegal Immigration

Group 3: Another look at Illegal Immigration

This site is devoted to objectively assessing the impacts of illegal immigration on our country. Read the articles "Economic Impact" "Crime: Does illegal immigration relate to higher crime incidence?" "Terrorism" "Immigrants Rights and Access: Should illegal aliens have access to social services..." "Taxes" Be ready to respond to the issues that the people in Group 2 find. There is a lot to read. Divide the tasks and share information.

Pro/Con Illegal Immigration

Illegal Immigration: Pro/Con

Group 4: Guatemala Civil War

The Guatemalan Civil war lasted for over 3 decades. Look at this site to find out what caused the civil war. First go to the list in blue and select #8. Civil War. Read the first 9 paragraphs. In the second to the last paragraph you will come across a link to the Plan de Sanchez Massacre. Follow this link, then the link that says "see more" to find out what happened on July of 1982. Take the time to read it and take notes, as this will help your classmates understand the beginning of the movie El Norte.

Group 5: Are there solutions?

As we can see, illegal immigration is a complex issue. At the top of this site is an article entitled "What are the solutions to Illegal Immigration?" Scroll down to the list. The first topic will be the CORE question. Select this, then follow the links that are given. Make a list of the solutions that are discussed and be ready to share with your group and the class.

Solutions?

Solutions?

