## A History of Immigration in the United States: How it Relates to YOU!

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**Objectives/Purpose:**

To create an interdisciplinary lesson on Immigration by using the history of immigration to the United States to make students more aware of their heritage and change their perception of new immigrants to the country.

**Grade Level:** 11th

**Group Size:** 35

**Lesson Time:** 90 mins

**Background Information:**

As a Spanish teacher, one of my greatest hurdles to overcome is getting my rural and dominantly Caucasian students to not only understand, but appreciate other cultures and accept new immigrants to this country. A method I have used in the past to combat this problem is to explain to the students that all of their ancestors were immigrants at some point in history and had to be assimilated into American culture. I will use a history of the United States and its immigrants to develop this discussion.

**Materials (minimum one book title and/or one primary source):**

Harper's Weekly cartoons

**Strategies/Procedures:**

Use large group discussion of historical events and perspectives to reach conclusions and encourage introspective and critical thinking.

**Tennessee Social Studies Curriculum Correlations:**

**Era 6: Standard Number 6.0: Individuals Groups and Interactions**

Appreciate the diversity of various cultures and their influences on the United States.

**Era 7: Standard Number 1.0: Culture**

Understand social tensions and their consequences after the turn of the century.

**Evaluation/Assessment:**

The assessment is informal, relying on student participation. As the presentation moves through history, it is important to review and ask questions about the previous slides to cement the information and to encourage more critical thinking and self-reflection.

**Author’s Evaluation:**

This plan was successful in class. The subject matter, being a controversial topic, helps the students get involved and stay involved in the historical discussion. Many students are unaware of the country's history of Nativism and how it applies to them today.