Immigration in the Modern U.S.

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Submitted to Dr. Roxanna Harlow for SOC-115

Summary

My project is a work of fiction that is based on the many experiences legal or future legal Americans experience with immigration today. Through this narrative accompanied by the provided image, you will be put into the role of an individual just starting at immigration services. The narrative is written in the second person, referring to the main character as 'you.' This is to make the reader feel more immersed in the role and the narrative. You will learn about multiple current ways immigration occurs and the lasting effect it has on the United States and its people. You will also discover the many facets of those who immigrate today and who gets accepted and rejected. The art accompanying it diplays how the two separate worlds of the immigrant and the United States are connected through the immigration services office and how much influence they have on these lives.

General Education Connections

Communicate ideas in written, oral, and other modes as appropriate to a situation and audience. | Employ various thinking strategies to develop well-reasoned judgments. | Evaluate sources of information for accuracy, relevance, and reliability. | Explore issues through creative, interdisciplinary, and innovative approaches. | Identify their roles as global citizens in a multicultural country and world.

Through the signature assignment, I was able to creatively explore the issues that come with immigration in the modern U.S., which I was not well–versed in beforehand. This project put many things in perspective about how and why someone would want to drop everything they know to come to this country and our role as global citizens in the nation. By using the device of second person perspective and setting the narrative inside the immigration services office I was able to creatively expose the reader/audience to multiple perspectives and realities that individuals experience.

Challenges

When working on this project, I found what little information I knew about immigration today in America was slim, and the information that I did find was surprising. The way the tests are handled and the questions that are asked to determine if someone should be considered a citizen I found to be outrageous. Most natural–born citizens could not answer some of those questions, so why do we expect migrants to do so? I found it challenging to keep the immigration services characters to be seen in a good light the more I learned how some people treat those who cross illegally. The conditions in which they are kept in are abhorrent. I had no idea about DREAMers and the visa lottery.

Application

Researching this topic makes me feel like I have some newfound respect and understanding for those trying to come to this country today and has really humanized their experiences. When looking at future elected officials, I will know my stance on immigration and how the border should be handled, as how it is being done today is not working. While creating this assignment, I discovered a real love for writing fiction. I plan on taking creative writing in the future after completing this assignment.