

D. SOC 122: AN IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE

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Course: Soc 122: Immigration Studies (fall/spring)

Project: An Immigrant Experience: Narratives [Stories] about Migration, Settlement, and Relations

Learning Objectives: This assignment encourages self-awareness about one's own history/biography in this society as affected by your family's immigration experience to [or within] the United States. In addition, you will develop research skills (e.g., asking parents, reading books/essays, interviewing experts) and teaching experience.

Description: The presentation should be about 8-10 minutes and allow time for questions. You can work by yourself or in a group of up to two students. Individual presenters need to turn in a 2-3 page report and group presenters a 5-page report. You have to use visual or/and auditory aids, for example, transparency film, posters/collages, home videos, music, and other creative methods to convey information about your selected group. Your presentation will be evaluated on the basis of your written/oral report's organization, clarity, integration of class material, and discussion of themes below.

1. Focus on a migration and/or settlement experience in the United States or within the United States. Briefly describe where they came from, when they came, how they came, and why they came. Consider the following questions: (a) Were they voluntary or involuntary migrants/immigrants? (b) Were they pioneer immigrants? (c) What social linkages [family, friends, or sponsors] may have helped? (d) *What structural factors [war, economy, policies/laws...] may have contributed to their coming/moving? Research the historical period: What was happening in the U.S., the sending country, and connections between both nations that may have encouraged the migration?
2. What jobs were available to them, where they lived, what sort of reception was experienced in the receiving society/community, how has their experiences changed since their initial arrival? Share stories, e.g., crossing the border, social treatment, work experiences, etc.
3. What are the major events that define who they now are?

4. What are some of their main cultural practices and traditions? Choose a few and develop.

For example,

Main events: births, age rituals, marriage, and funerals...

Unique Foods: special occasions and common dishes...

Family: special distinguishing practices from other ethnic families...

5. How has your family changed (e.g., economically, politically, culturally) over time? What explains the changes?

6. What are the challenges faced in our society? What are some of their accomplishments in this society?

A sign-up sheet will be passed out in the second week to schedule your presentation.