

Sample Speaking Outline

- Topic:** Immigration Reform
General purpose: To persuade
Specific purpose: To persuade my audience that progressive immigration reform is beneficial to the United States [*Claim of value*]
Thesis: If approached responsibly, progressive immigration reform will benefit the United States in several ways.
Org. pattern: Topical

INTRODUCTION

- I. Poem by Martin Niemöller
- II. Explain link between vitriolic rhetoric about Nazism and immigration debate in U.S.
 - A. The way we talk (tone) matters
 1. Ann Coulter's 2013 article
 2. Undermines principles of democracy
 - B. Responsibility is a virtue
 1. Statue of Liberty saying
 2. Viktor Frankl's (1959) quote
- III. Responsible talk about immigration reform
- IV. Progressive immigration reform, if approached responsibly, will benefit the United States in several ways.
- V. Preview:
 - A. Economic benefits
 - B. Social benefits
 - C. Cultural benefits

Transition: Undocumented workers have positively impacted the economy [**long pause**]

BODY

- I. Economic Benefits: Data show that undocumented workers and amnesty laws impact the economy positively, not negatively.
 - A. City-to-city study; undocumented workers had little effect on the wages and displacement of U.S. workers (Martin, 2009)
 1. Filling low-wage jobs.
 - B. Two decades of research show the 1986 law raised wages and helped lift the economy. 1992 average hourly wages = 15.1% (DoL). 2012 study by the Economic Policy Institute (Woellert, 2013)
 1. History could repeat itself.
 - C. CBO = legal status would increase tax revenue by \$4.5 billion+; increase gross domestic product by \$1.5 trillion over 10 years. (Avilia, 2013)
 1. Revenue would offset increase in social services. **[LOOK UP]**

Transition: The economic benefits are many; recap.

- II. Social Benefits: Data show that undocumented workers and immigrants with amnesty impact the society positively, foremost in crime reduction. **[State stats slowly]**
 - A. Crime is not an innate characteristic; longitudinal studies indicate a drop in crime (Martinez, Stowell, & Lee, 2010).
 1. Contradicts belief in *cause* of crime rates
 - B. Crime is more common among natural-born citizens. 2008 study by Policy Center = 18–39 are five times more likely to be incarcerated than are their foreign-born peers. Illegal immigrants in the country doubled between 1994 and 2005, violent crime declined by nearly 35% and property crimes by 26% over the same period. Los Angeles = higher share of recent immigrants, but fall in crime. (Kingsbury, 2008)
 1. Consistent with another longitudinal study (Ousey & Kubrin, 2009)
 2. Undocumented or unfettered immigration doesn't increase crime.
 - C. FBI statistics indicates that amnesty for 1% of the population = 2% percent decrease in crime per capita (McClure, 2012)
 1. Preponderance of evidence that both undocumented and documented immigrants cause crime rates to go down.

Transition: Economic and social benefits are great, cultural ones are key.

- III. Cultural Benefits: Data and anecdotal evidence show that there are many cultural benefits to immigration.
 - A. Upward mobility increases over time. Indicates assimilation (Jimenez & Fitzgerald, 2007).
 - 1. Immigrants do not pose a threat to American economic, political, or cultural values.
 - B. Proud history of serving in the U.S. military; culturally benefits all by protecting our freedoms (Amaya, 2007).
 - 1. Marine Lance Corporal Jose Gutierrez = Iraq casualty of war (Amaya, 2007).
 - 2. Others: Cpl. Jose Angel Garibay, Cpl. Jesus Alberto Suarez, and Staff Sgt. Riayan A. Tejada.
 - 3. These examples show that immigrants, even undocumented ones, fight to protect the very culture many think they undermine.
 - C. Richard Florida (2012): More heterogeneous cities have healthier citizens and better quality of life.
 - 1. There are many ways to achieve diversity.

Transition: Outlined benefits; more to consider. [**Long pause**]

CONCLUSION

- I. Immigrants come to the United States from all parts of the globe. Adds to culture.
- II. Benefits to immigration worth noting—must pay attention to tone of conversation, as noted in intro.
- III. Different sides of issue; Crime stats do not count undocumented immigration as crime, although some think it is.
- IV. Modified quote from intro. [**Slow, w/ passion**]