IMMIGRATION AND EDUCATION POLICY

This lesson was adapted from the *New York Times’* Learning Network.

***Activity - CASE STUDY:*** Alabama Immigration Enforcement Law – Alabama HB 56

Students will be focusing in-depth on Alabama’s new law requiring schools to ascertain the immigration status of students at registration. Since the announcement, officials have noticed that 5 percent of the state’s Hispanic children are absent from classrooms.

Have students read this recent article to get a factual understanding of the law:

“Alabama’s 2011 anti-immigrant law H.B. 56 still on books, gets new life under Trump” - <http://www.al.com/news/birmingham/index.ssf/2017/03/hb_56_alabamas_2011_anti-immig.html>

After students get the factual information down, have them read two opposing articles about the Alabama law:

1 – Pro: “HB56: Helping to move Alabama’s Economy forward” - <http://www.fairus.org/docserver/hb56.pdf> - Have students read the first 2-3 pages.

2 – Con: “Alabama’s Shame” - <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/04/opinion/alabamas-shame.html?_r=1>

Have students divide up into groups of four. Give each group butcher paper and a marker. The students should chart on their butcher paper the pros and cons of HB 56. They may use information in the articles, their own prior knowledge about immigration/public education, and/or do some research while they are in their small groups.

Have the small groups report out to the class. Students should keep this report fairly objective (even if the cons outweigh the pros or vice versa…they get debate in the next activity).

After the small groups report out to the class, do a quick Four Corners activity. Label each corner “Strongly Agree”, “Slightly Agree”, “Slightly Disagree”, and “Strongly Disagree”. Give the students the following statement: Alabama’s HB 56 is a necessary law that is vital for effective immigration reform.

***Video –***

Show this video on immigrants and public education. This is very pro education for undocumented immigrants just so you are aware. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_fzmVSZZdQ>