Undocumented Immigrants

***Bell Ringer***: Show the following political cartoon on the projector and start a classroom discussion. What is the creator of this cartoon arguing?

<https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/texts/illegal-immigrants>



This political cartoon by Arend van Dam was published in 2011.

***Article Reading:*** Have students read and annotate the article “The Great Immigration Debate” by Patricia Smith (2010). Although the article is a bit old, it sets up in a student accessible way the debate involving “illegal” immigration. <https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/texts/the-great-immigration-debate>

Students should actively read by taking notes in the margin, circling words or concepts they don’t understand, and by highlighting key arguments in the article.

Discuss the article with the class after they finish. In a general sense, how do conservatives and liberals suggest the nation address illegal immigrants respectively? Discuss some of the language in the piece. The term “re-ignite” is used. What does that work mean literally? What does it mean that the immigration law has “reignited” the national debate? What is the effect of using this word instead of a word like “restarted”?

***Video Viewing -*** *“*How would you describe the undocumented immigrant population in the United States?” (2:20) - <https://video.choices.edu/media/how-would-you-describe-undocumented-immigrant-population-united-states>

Have the class discuss what surprised them. What do they agree with or disagree with from the video? Does this challenge any stereotypes that they currently have?

***Classroom Discussion***: About 12 million unauthorized immigrants live and work in the United States today. Some say they should be deported, while others support a path to legal residency. What would deportation of 12 million people involve? What would be required to receive amnesty?

For 250 years, the United States has recharged its spirit and economy by extending citizenship to immigrants. The question now is, once the undocumented gain legal status, will we extend the same opportunity to them? If not, how do we reconcile that decision with our ideal of equality?

(Questions taken from *Teaching Tolerance)*