



DISCUSSION GUIDE

I. Why Does It Matter?

1. What personal experiences have made you interested in immigration? Have these experiences confirmed or challenged your assumptions about immigration? Citizenship? Cultural identity? Belonging?
2. The United States is a very diverse country. What is your mental picture of that diversity? How well does your immediate neighborhood reflect that image? Your city or town? Your region? State? Has this image changed a lot in the last few years particularly in regards to immigration? What have been your responses to that change? Are your responses similar to those who live and work around you?
3. What are your current opinions on immigration and on what it means to be an American? (You might like to consult the survey questions following this guide.) How much are your opinions based on your own direct personal experience? Would other direct personal experiences change them?
4. Do you think that naturalized citizens have as much insight to contribute to immigration discussions as do native-born citizens? Why? Why not?
5. Which people involved in the debate about immigration do you find easiest to understand? Most difficult? Why? Can you image situations where you might have responses similar to those who feel most different from you?
6. Do you think anything you say or do can influence immigration policies? Improve social cohesion in your community? In the country as a whole?

II. Why Do We Come?

1. Which of these stories resonated most with the stories of the immigrants in your own family? Which come closest to your understanding of the "typical" immigrant story?