Key Words: Immigration, Work, Undocumented, Taxes, Illegal, Economy


Topic: Immigration Controversy

- Immigration affects 60 percent of Latinos who are born in the U.S. because their parents most often are immigrants. (Murga and Saenz, 42)

- Debates about immigration reform discuss issues as to stop immigration and send undocumented people back to Mexico or to offer citizenship to those people that are already here in the U.S. (Murga and Saenz, 43)

- There are arguments from those who oppose immigration and hold Latino immigrants responsible for stealing jobs, keeping wages low, and use up most of health, welfare and school systems. (Murga and Saenz, 43)

- High school drop outs are affected by the presence of Latino immigrants because their wages are 3 to 8 percent lower and have to compete with immigrants for jobs.(Murga and Saenz, 44)

- The report argues that the undocumented steal Americans of labor jobs and try to keep prices down since the services needed for vegetables and a number of goods depend on immigrant labor. (Murga and Saenz, 44)
Samuel Huntington states in his book “Who Are We? The Challenges to America’s National Identity”, that Mexican immigrants are a threat to the American way of life based on the nation’s Puritan ideology. (Murga and Saenz, 45)

Rogelio Saenz observed that the longer Mexican immigrants stay in the US, they might be willing to become citizens, speak English, and attain higher education. They are also likely to marry someone other than Mexican and have lower poverty rates. (Murga and Saenz, 47)

The Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2007 emphasizes the use of heavy security and surveillance along the border. It will also pressure the 12 million undocumented immigrants already in the US to become citizens. (Murga and Saenz, 47)

Assessment:

The strengths of the book is that it explains the issues surrounding Latinos in the United States. One of the major issues that the book discusses is Immigration Reform and the impact it has to the Latino community. Debates about whether to send undocumented immigrants back to Mexico or to offer them citizenship and become members of the US. It also discusses both sides of immigration, the good and the bad and have support from sources. It connects to the narratives because Immigration Reform affects the authors and their families which is a struggle they must deal with.