



IMMIGRATION: Critical Thinking Worksheet

You are a U.S. Immigration Judge, and you must decide what to do about people from foreign countries who want to live in the U.S. **Choose two of the following persons.** Will you allow that person to stay in the U.S? What additional information will you need? Jot down your decision and your reasons.

- a. Ye-jun is 28 years old from South Korea. He has been accepted by a U.S. university to work on his Ph.D. in chemistry. He is applying for a green card, which will allow him to remain in the U.S. indefinitely and to apply for citizenship after five years.

- b. Karima, who is 19 years old from Algeria, tried to enter the U.S. with a forged passport. She says that gang members in Algeria killed her uncle and two brothers and have threatened to kill her if she returns. She is applying for asylum.

- c. Elena says she is 3 years old. She and her grandmother crossed into the U.S. illegally from Mexico. She was separated from her grandmother at the border. Her grandmother was sent back to Mexico and cannot be located.



ANSWERS/DISCUSSION

1. Meet in small groups to discuss whether you, an Immigration Judge, will allow each of the individuals to stay in the U.S. What additional information will you need before you make your decision? Will you grant them asylum? Will you give them a green card and allow them to stay in the U.S. indefinitely? Will you help them onto the path to become U.S. citizens?

In your discussions, opinions may vary. Follow the rules of **civility**:

- Speak in a quiet voice.
 - Listen respectfully to others.
 - No interrupting.
- a. Ye-jun is a preferred green card applicant because he is highly educated. He may qualify for a green card if he gets a job after he finishes his degree, and his employer testifies that he wants Ye-jun to remain in the U.S.
 - b. Karima will have to provide proof that her uncle and brothers were murdered by gang members and that her life is at risk if she is deported to Algeria. Using a forged passport is a crime that can be punished by a \$250,000 fine and up to 10 years in prison.
 - c. In actual cases such as Elena's, U.S. authorities have had trouble reuniting children with family members because they kept poor records. Elena does not know her last name or where she lives in Mexico and has no identification on her. What options does the judge have for dealing with Elena? Deporting her to an orphanage in Mexico? Searching for her family members in Mexico? Placing her in an orphanage in the U.S.? Allowing her to be adopted by U.S. citizens?

Your feedback is important to us. Please answer the questions below and add your name and contact information if you would like us to provide you with updates or voter registration information.

1. Was the discussion civil?
2. Do you agree with the answers on the back of the page?
3. What did you like best about the exercise?
4. Was there a part of the exercise that you did not like? Why?
5. Would you like to suggest additional topics? If yes, please list below.

NAME: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION: _____