



Immigrant Strengths, Contributions and Narratives

Denzil Mohammed and Ariana Moir

Public Education Institute at
The Immigrant Learning Center

December 7, 2022

The ILC Public Education Institute

1992

The ILC is started through the vision of Founder and CEO Diane Portnoy (right) to provide free English classes for foreign-born adults - more than 11,500 to date.



2003

The ILC Public Education Institute is established to counter anti-immigrant sentiment.

The ILC Public Education Institute

- ▶ Commissioned research to develop alternative, fact-based narrative
- ▶ 13 studies to document immigrant contributions
- ▶ Inform policy, media, public, educators, immigrant-serving field
- ▶ Webinars, fact sheets, conferences, workshops, annual Immigrant Entrepreneur Awards

The Institute for Immigration Research at George Mason University

2012

Launched the **Institute for Immigration Research** at
George Mason University



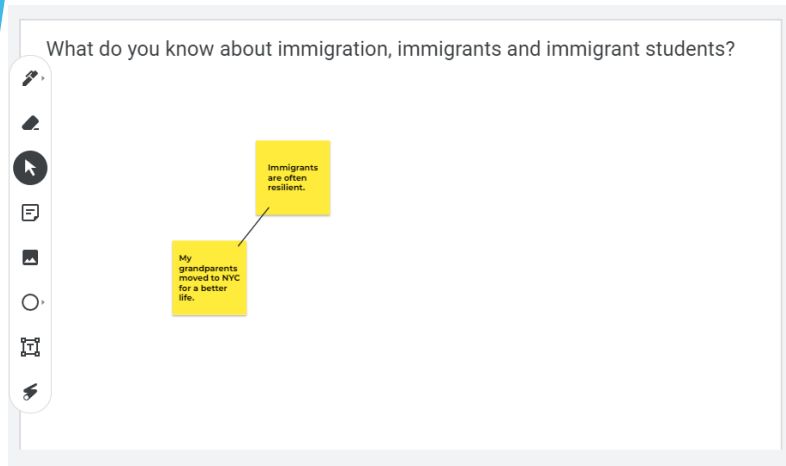
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Agenda

1. Facts and data
2. Main themes
3. Policy Update
4. Next session prep

Immigrant Strengths, Contributions and Narratives

What do you know about immigration, immigrants and immigrant students?



First Literacy Professional Development Workshop

Jamboard

- Facts and statistics
- Your or your family's migration story
- Your students' stories
- Questions



bit.ly/3VYWaHF

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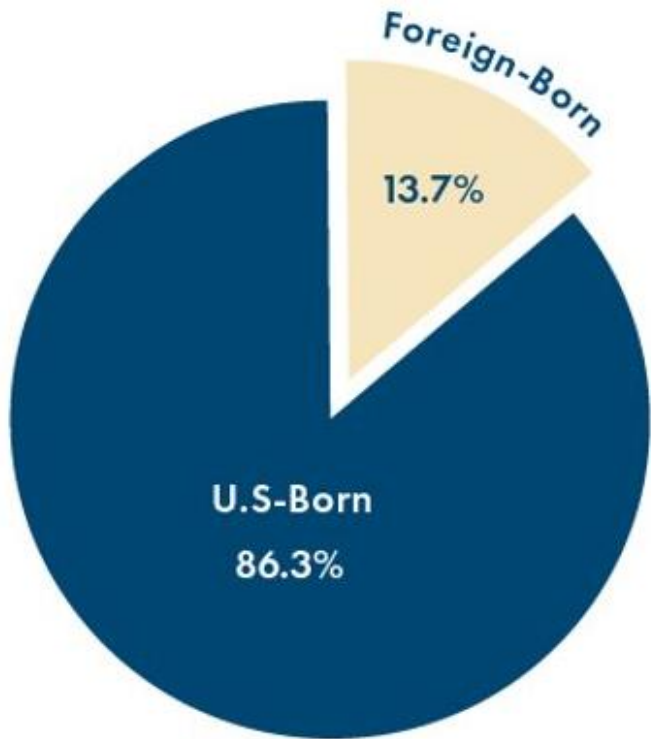
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What did you notice?

- ▶ Update and edit in the Jamboard

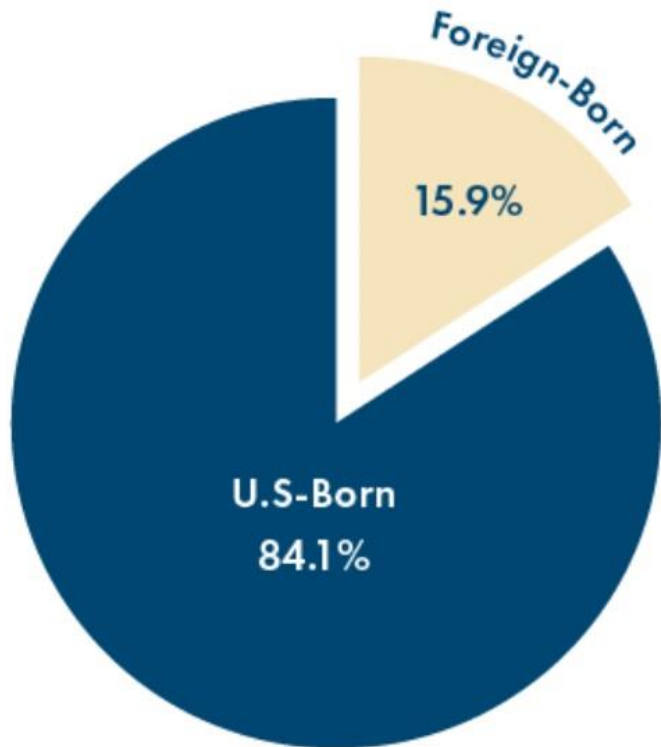
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Immigrants in the U.S.



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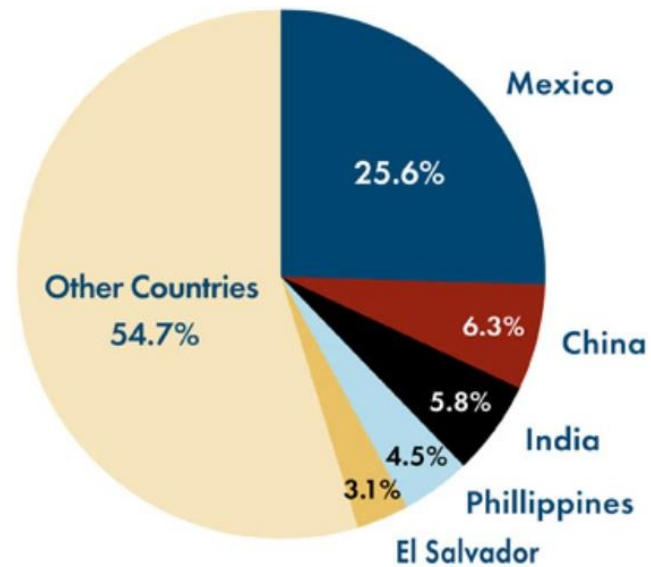
Immigrants in MA



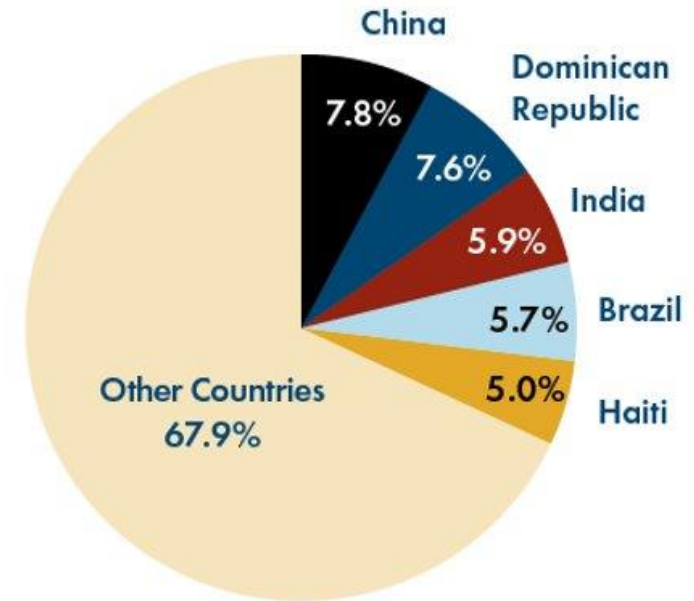
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Immigrants in U.S. vs MA

The five largest immigrant populations in the United States are from:



The five largest immigrant populations in Massachusetts are from:



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Immigrants work

Immigrants have a higher workforce participation rate.*



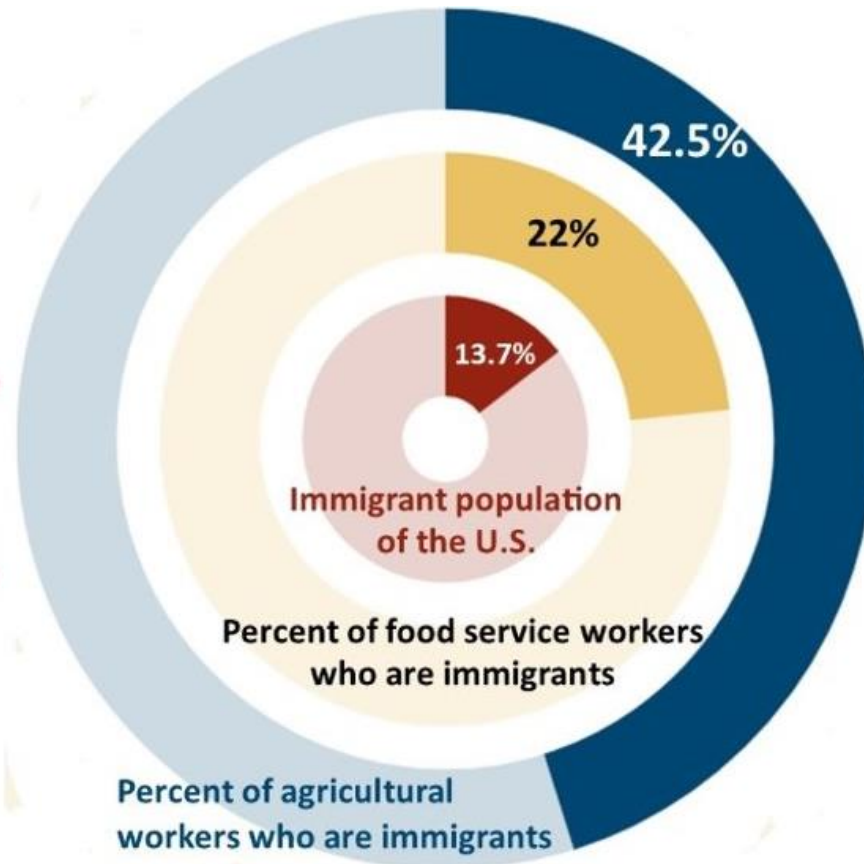
US-Born



Foreign-Born

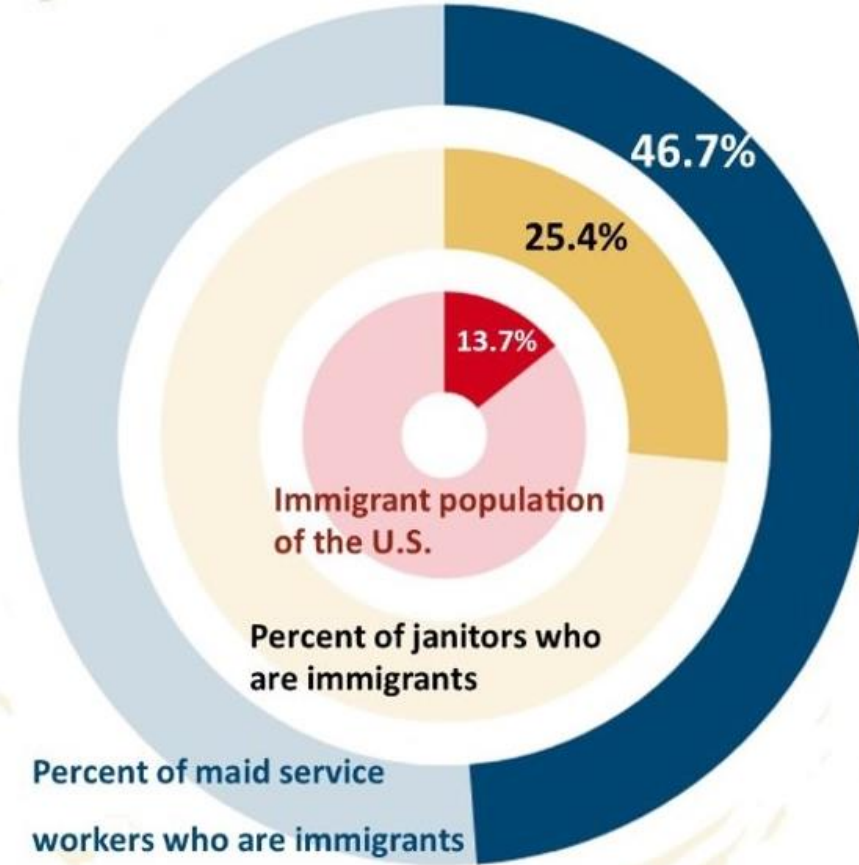
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Immigrants help feed all of us



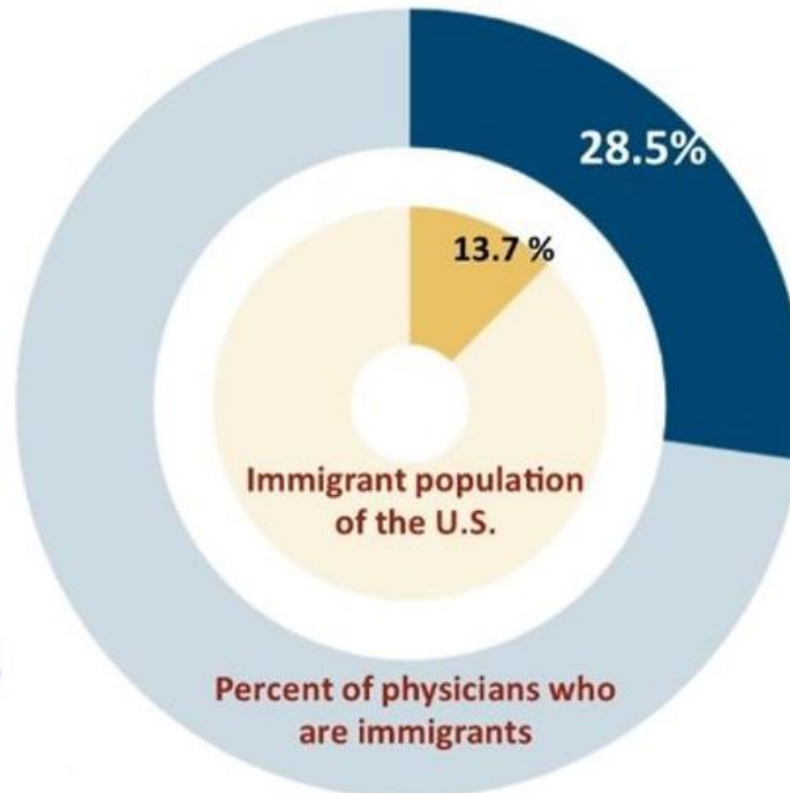
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Immigrants help keep the U.S. clean



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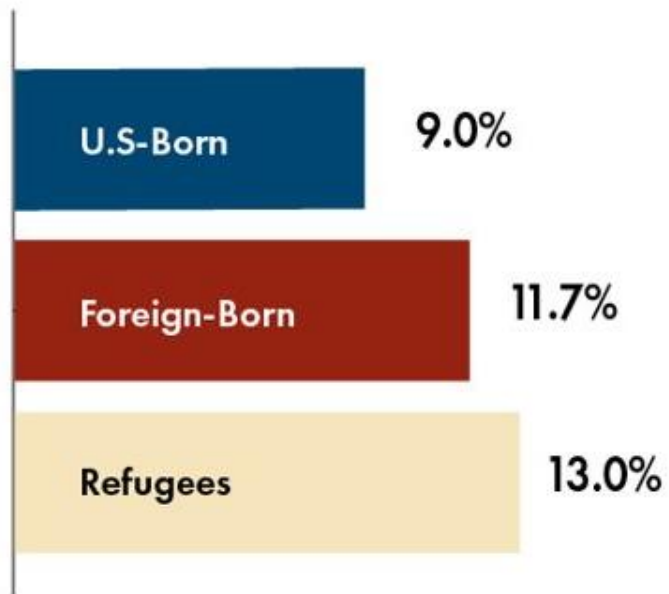
Immigrants help keep everyone safe



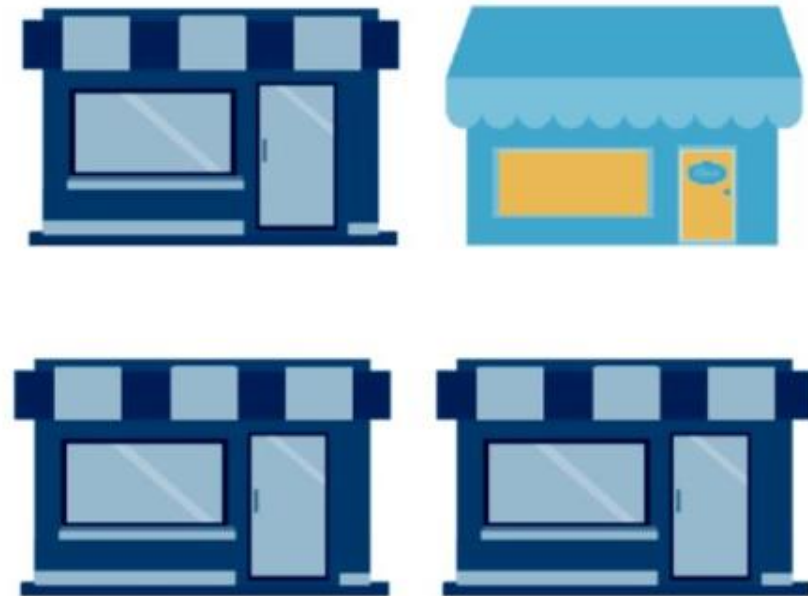
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Immigrants are entrepreneurial

Immigrants, particularly refugees, have higher self-employment rates than U.S.-born.



One quarter (25%) of new U.S. businesses are founded by immigrants.



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Immigrants are entrepreneurial

43%

of Fortune 500 companies
were founded by 1st or 2nd
generation immigrants

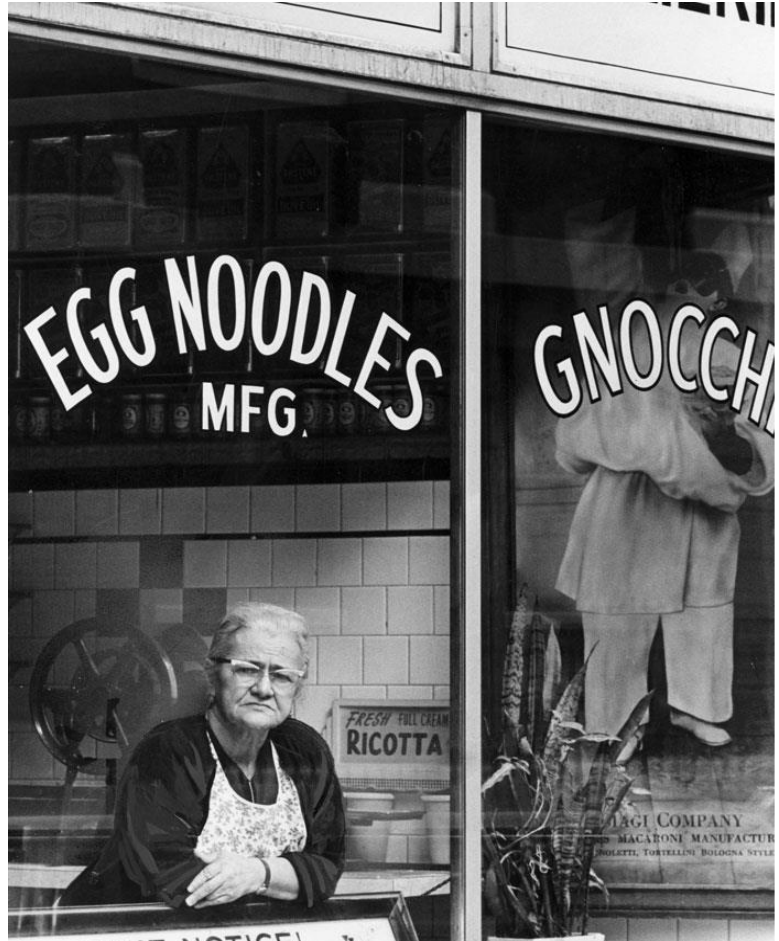
28%

of Main Street
businesses were
founded by immigrants

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Google

GOYA

PayPal

ebay™

Capital One

Levi's



at&t

Pfizer

Honeywell

DU PONT

idealist

edible arrangements

TESLA

Kraft Heinz

The Immigrant Learning Center

NEW ENGLAND COFFEE
Family Coffee Roasters
Since 1916



Anheuser-Busch



www.ilctr.org

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Immigrant Strengths, Contributions and Narratives

Mentimeter

What words automatically come to mind when you hear
the word

“immigrant” or “immigration?”

Go to www.menti.com and use the code 44 49 37



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Disinformation

We've been fed a false narrative about immigrants and immigration that runs counter to the data.

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Needed talent

The pandemic revealed how badly the U.S. needs talent across the spectrum of essential industries:

- Shortages of health care and other workers
- Some states retooled credentialing and licensing requirements to meet pandemic demand
- Visa issuance suspended - except for agricultural workers

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Immigrant / resident / citizen / American

Despite status or label, we are all living in this
community, society, state, country

What affects one group, particularly economically,
affects everyone else as well

Immigration is an intersectional issue

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Immigrant narratives

Teaching the Refugee Experience
Welcome to the New World

October 7, 2020
5:00-6:00 PM EDT

Educating Americans on the
Contributions of Immigrants

The Immigrant Learning Center
www.iltr.org @ImmigrantLearningCenter @ilctr

NO HATE

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Refugees

A person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution or natural disaster:

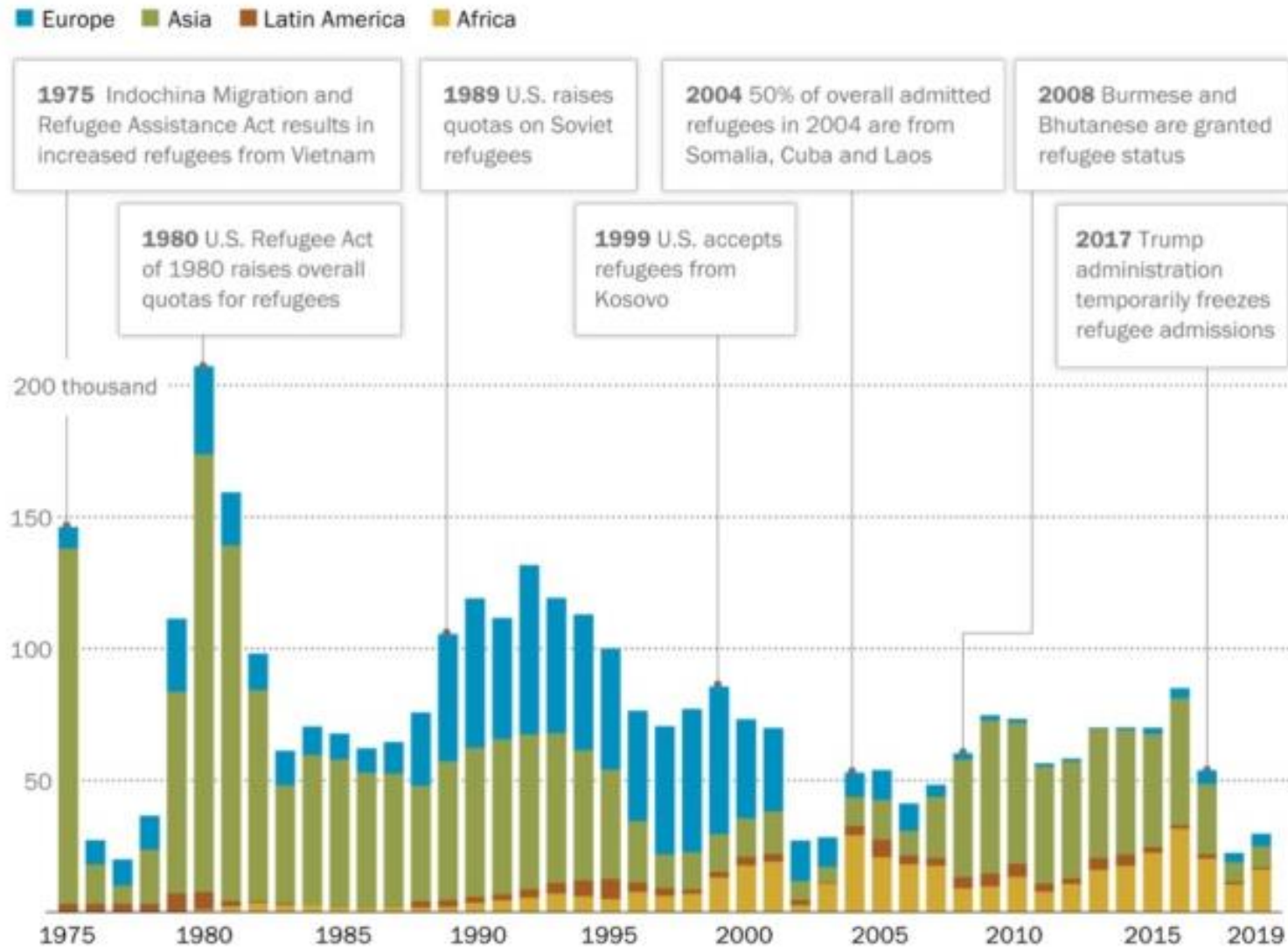
- War in Iraq
- War in South Sudan
- Earthquake in Haiti
- Rohingya genocide in Myanmar (Burma)

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Refugee Arrivals By State of Initial Resettlement, FY 2020

State	Total Refugees Arrivals	Percentage of Total Arrivals
California	1,184	10.02%
Washington	1,113	9.42%
Texas	902	7.64%
New York	620	5.25%
Michigan	493	4.17%
Kentucky	476	4.03%
North Carolina	469	3.97%
Pennsylvania	450	3.81%
Arizona	444	3.76%
Ohio	427	3.61%
Minnesota	385	3.26%
Georgia	375	3.17%
Illinois	351	2.97%
Indiana	323	2.73%
Florida	318	2.69%
Massachusetts	291	2.46%

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Immigrant Strengths, Contributions and Narratives

Teaching the Refugee Experience
Welcome to the New World

October 7, 2020
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First-Person Refugee Narratives in the Classroom



Maher Mahmood
Filmmaker and photographer



www.ilctr.org



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Immigration policy today

- “Public charge” rule dropped
- “Green cards” are being issued
- Refugee cap increased to 125,000
- Pledge to resettle 100,000 refugees from Ukraine
- Increased to 12 number of countries eligible for TPS
 - Burma (Myanmar); Yemen; El Salvador; Haiti; Honduras; Nepal; Nicaragua; Somalia; Sudan; South Sudan; Syria; Venezuela.

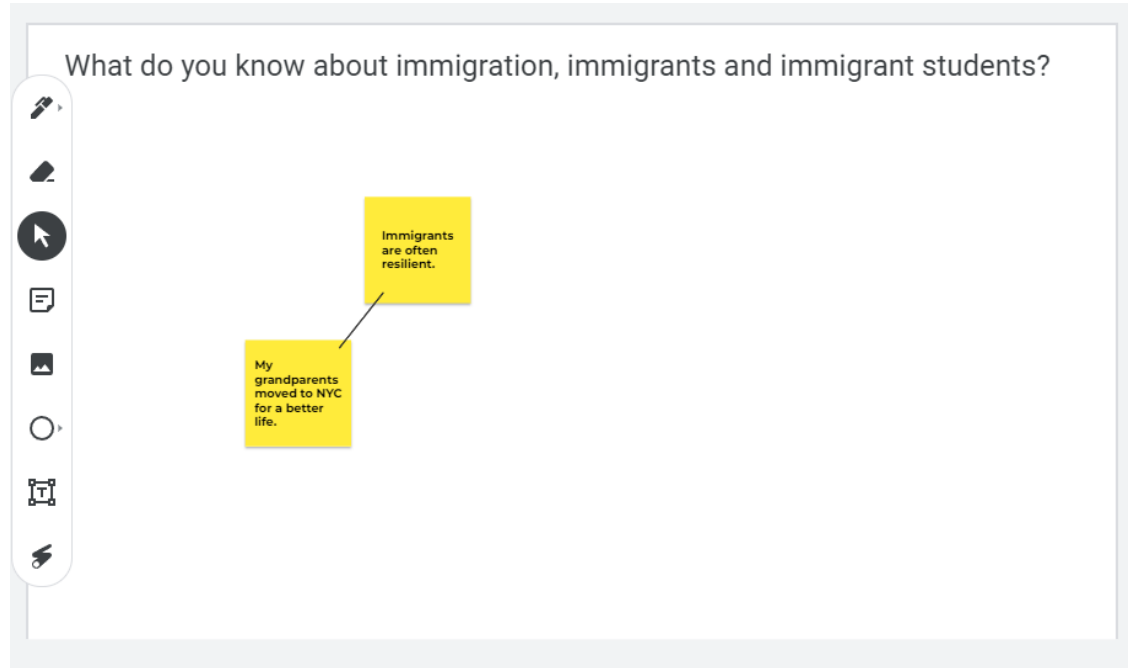
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Immigration policy proposed

- Create an earned path to citizenship for the undocumented
- Reform family-based immigration to keep families together
- Promote immigrant/refugee integration and citizenship, including increased funding for English-language instruction
- Make it easier for graduates of U.S. universities with advanced STEM degrees to stay in the U.S.
- Improve access to green cards for workers in lower-wage sectors

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Jamboard



Add and update!

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Next session prep

▶ Storytelling

Start thinking about a migration story

- When you moved somewhere new
- A story from your family
- Something you feel comfortable sharing



Thank you!

We want your feedback.

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