

This I Believe - Immigration Essay Assignment

What is This I Believe?

This I Believe is an international project engaging people in writing, sharing, and discussing the core values that guide their daily lives. These short statements of belief, written by people from all walks of life, are archived and featured on public radio in the United States and Canada. The project is based on the popular 1950s radio series of the same name hosted by Edward R. Murrow.

Your Task:

The purpose of this assignment is to explore the Latino immigrant experience past and present and to identify lessons we can learn from Latino immigrants. You are not explaining everything that you think. Rather, you are wrestling one tangible lesson or story from an complex concept.

Essay Writing Tips:

Tell a story. Take a stand. Be specific. Speak from the heart. As you prepare for this assignment, seek wisdom and lessons from the people you are studying and learning from. Honor them as you illuminate the lessons we can learn from Latino immigrants them in your essay.

Be brief: Your statement should be between 350 and 500 words. That's about three minutes when read aloud at your natural pace.

Name your lesson/belief: If you can't name it in a sentence or two, your essay might not be about a lesson/belief.

Be positive: Please avoid preaching or editorializing. Write about what you learned and now believe, not what you don't believe. Avoid speaking in the editorial "we." Make your essay about you; speak in the first person. What lessons have YOU learned from studying Latino immigrants?

Be personal: Write in words and phrases that are comfortable for you to speak. We recommend you read your essay aloud to yourself several times, and each time edit it and simplify it until you find the words, tone, and story that truly echo your belief and the way you speak.

Requirements:

- 350-500 words
- Typed, double spaced, standard, 12 pt Times font
- 1" margins and proper heading (Name, Date, Assignment title)
- First person point of view
- Make sure to clearly state your belief and support that belief with narrative details.
- Strong organization with clear transitions
- A centered, creative title, no larger than 16 pt font
- Create an audio or video file of your essay.

*Portions of this assessment have been modified from the This I Believe Website with collaboration from Kelly Corne and the Mead High School English Department.

This I Believe -Immigration Essay Rubric

CATEGORY	9-10	8	7	1-6
Ideas	There is one clear, well-focused lesson/belief. Lesson statement stands out and is supported by detailed example.	Lesson/belief statement is clear but the supporting information is general.	Lesson/belief statement is somewhat clear but there is a need for more supporting information.	The main idea is not clear. There is a seemingly random collection of information.
Content	Relevant, quality details give the reader important information that goes beyond the obvious or predictable.	Supporting details and information are relevant, but one key issue or portion of the storyline is unsupported.	Supporting details and information are relevant, but several key issues or portions of the storyline are unsupported.	Supporting details and information are typically unclear or not related to the topic.
Organization	Details are placed in a logical order and the way they are presented effectively keeps the interest of the reader. Transitions clearly show how ideas are connected.	Details are placed in a logical order, but the way in which they are presented/introduced sometimes makes the writing less interesting. Transitions clearly show how ideas are connected, but there is little variety.	Some details are not in a logical or expected order, and this distracts the reader. Some transitions work well; but connections between other ideas are fuzzy.	Many details are not in a logical or expected order. There is little sense that the writing is organized. The transitions between ideas are unclear or nonexistent.
Voice	The writer successfully uses several reasons/appeals to try to show why the reader should care or want to know more about the topic.	The writer successfully uses one or two reasons/appeals to try to show why the reader should care or want to know more about the topic.	The writer attempts to make the reader care about the topic, but is not really successful.	The writer made no attempt to make the reader care about the topic.
Conventions	Writer makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.