Case Study #2: Buddhism and Immigration Reform

Read the sections on Buddhism in our text, the electronic essays provided on Buddhism, and the attached articles from ABC News, C-Span, NBC News and the thought piece from Watson Institute for International Studies at Brown University. Once you have gotten sufficient background, answer the following questions.

The completed assignment should be two pages long, using one inch margins, 12 pt. fonts and single spacing. This study is worth a total of 90 points. Your completed assignment is due on the 15th of May.

Please refer to the instructions, general suggestions, grading rubrics, and a sample attached to the first assignment!

Answer the following questions thoughtfully and as completely as space allows:

1. **What further research information would assist you in formulating a response to the issues surrounding immigration reform?** Pose in question form. This should be a bulleted list. For this assignment, you do not have to do the research but you need to raise the kind of questions that would drive such a project. These should be research questions and as such should be concrete and answerable. Think about facts and data that, if known might help determine how one should or could respond to the issues identified. (20 points)

2. **Briefly explain the Buddhist concept of causality in terms of pratitya samutpada/interdependent arising.** (10 pts.)

3. **How would a Buddhist argue that this complex web of causality affects the responsibility of the currently legal United States citizens in resolving the issue of immigration?** (30 pts.) Cite a supporting quote from a primary Buddhist text to support your answer.

4. **Thinking about pratitya samutpada, the importance of karuna/compassion and the concept of sangha/community, which of the four alternatives articulated by the Watson Institute at Brown University might a Buddhist advise the United States to adopt? Is there a fifth alternative that might be better from a Buddhist standpoint? Defend your answer.** (30 pts.) Cite a supporting quote from a primary Buddhist text to support your answer.
The Senate "Gang of 8" that has been leading the charge on immigration reform has signed off on a comprehensive bill that will be introduced today, ABC News has learned exclusively.

The group of bipartisan senators led by Arizona's John McCain, South Carolina's Lindsey Graham, New York's Charles Schumer and Florida's Marco Rubio came to terms on one of the most contentious elements of immigration reform: border security.

The bill requires "persistent surveillance" of America's southern border and a border security effectiveness rate of 90 percent before allowing undocumented immigrants who...
arrived in the United States before Dec. 31, 2011 to apply for legal status, setting them off on a 10-year path to citizenship.

A February GAO report found that Yuma sector already had 100 percent operational control, where as Marfa sector reported only 11 percent operational control of its border miles.

The bill appropriates $4.5 billion to add 3,500 border patrol agents, install surveillance systems, add drones and build more double-layered fencing.

The "pathway to citizenship," which would allow many of the 11 million undocumented immigrants eventually to become citizens, requires immigrants to be free of felony convictions and pay a $500 penalty fee, plus back taxes.

Those who qualify would gain legal status immediately, but go to the end of the line for citizenship. After a 10-year wait, they would then be granted green cards, followed by full citizenship.

A Senate delegation led by Sen. Schumer, D-N.Y., is expected to brief the president later today at the White House, according to sources, but a news conference previously scheduled to announce the reform bill on Tuesday has been cancelled following the Boston bombing.

Document: Senate Gang of 8 immigration reform bill (full text …)
will ensure that this is a successful permanent reform to our immigration system that will not need to be revisited.

Four Basic Legislative Pillars:

○ Create a tough but fair path to citizenship for unauthorized immigrants currently living in the United States that is contingent upon securing our borders and tracking whether legal immigrants have left the country when required;

○ Reform our legal immigration system to better recognize the importance of characteristics that will help build the American economy and strengthen American families;

○ Create an effective employment verification system that will prevent identity theft and end the hiring of future unauthorized workers; and,

○ Establish an improved process for admitting future workers to serve our nation’s workforce needs, while simultaneously protecting all workers.

I. Creating a Path to Citizenship for Unauthorized Immigrants Already Here that is Contingent Upon Securing the Border and Combating Visa Overstays

☐ Our legislation will provide a tough, fair, and practical roadmap to address the status of unauthorized immigrants in the United States that is contingent upon our success in securing our borders and addressing visa overstays.

☐ To fulfill the basic governmental function of securing our borders, we will continue the increased efforts of the Border Patrol by providing them with the latest technology, infrastructure, and personnel needed to prevent, detect, and apprehend every unauthorized entrant.

☐ Additionally, our legislation will increase the number of unmanned aerial vehicles and surveillance equipment, improve radio interoperability and increase the number of agents at and between ports of entry. The purpose is to substantially lower the number of successful illegal border crossings while continuing to facilitate commerce.

☐ We will strengthen prohibitions against racial profiling and inappropriate use of force, enhance the training of border patrol agents, increase oversight, and create a mechanism to ensure a meaningful opportunity for border communities to share input, including critiques.

☐ Our legislation will require the completion of an entry-exit system that tracks whether all persons entering the United States on temporary visas via airports and seaports have left the country as required by law.

☐ We recognize that Americans living along the Southwest border are key to recognizing and understanding when the border is truly secure. Our legislation will create a commission comprised of governors, attorneys general, and community leaders living along the Southwest border to monitor the progress of securing our border and to make a recommendation regarding when the bill’s security measures outlined in the legislation are completed.
While these security measures are being put into place, we will simultaneously require those who came or remained in the United States without our permission to register with the government. This will include passing a background check and settling their debt to society by paying a fine and back taxes, in order to earn probationary legal status, which will allow them to live and work legally in the United States. Individuals with a serious criminal background or others who pose a threat to our national security will be ineligible for legal status and subject to deportation. Illegal immigrants who have committed serious crimes face immediate deportation.

We will demonstrate our commitment to securing our borders and combating visa overstays by requiring our proposed enforcement measures be complete before any immigrant on probationary status can earn a green card.

Current restrictions preventing non-immigrants from accessing federal public benefits will also apply to lawful probationary immigrants.

Once the enforcement measures have been completed, individuals with probationary legal status will be required to go to the back of the line of prospective immigrants, pass an additional background check, pay taxes, learn English and civics, demonstrate a history of work in the United States, and current employment, among other requirements, in order to earn the opportunity to apply for lawful permanent residency. Those individuals who successfully complete these requirements can eventually earn a green card.

Individuals who are present without lawful status - not including people within the two categories identified below - will only receive a green card after every individual who is already waiting in line for a green card, at the time this legislation is enacted, has received their green card. Our purpose is to ensure that no one who has violated America’s immigration laws will receive preferential treatment as they relate to those individuals who have complied with the law.

Our legislation also recognizes that the circumstances and the conduct of people without lawful status are not the same, and cannot be addressed identically.

- For instance, individuals who entered the United States as minor children did not knowingly choose to violate any immigration laws. Consequently, under our proposal these individuals will not face the same requirements as other individuals in order to earn a path to citizenship.

- Similarly, individuals who have been working without legal status in the United States agricultural industry have been performing very important and difficult work to maintain America’s food supply while earning subsistence wages. Due to the utmost importance in our nation maintaining the safety of its food supply, agricultural workers who commit to the long term stability of our nation’s agricultural industries will be treated differently than the rest of the undocumented population because of the role they play in ensuring that Americans have safe and secure agricultural products to sell and consume. These individuals will earn a path to citizenship through a different process under our new agricultural worker program.
II. Improving our Legal Immigration System and Attracting the World’s Best and Brightest

The development of a rational legal immigration system is essential to ensuring America’s future economic prosperity. Our failure to act is perpetuating a broken system which sadly discourages the world’s best and brightest citizens from coming to the United States and remaining in our country to contribute to our economy. This failure makes a legal path to entry in the United States insurmountably difficult for well-meaning immigrants. This unarguably discourages innovation and economic growth. It has also created substantial visa backlogs which force families to live apart, which incentivizes illegal immigration.

Our new immigration system must be more focused on recognizing the important characteristics which will help build the American economy and strengthen American families. Additionally, we must reduce backlogs in the family and employment visa categories so that future immigrants view our future legal immigration system as the exclusive means for entry into the United States.

The United States must do a better job of attracting and keeping the world’s best and brightest. As such, our immigration proposal will award a green card to immigrants who have received a PhD or Master’s degree in science, technology, engineering, or math from an American university. It makes no sense to educate the world’s future innovators and entrepreneurs only to ultimately force them to leave our country at the moment they are most able to contribute to our economy.

III. Strong Employment Verification

We recognize that undocumented immigrants come to the United States almost exclusively for jobs. As such, dramatically reducing future illegal immigration can only be achieved by developing a tough, fair, effective and mandatory employment verification system. An employment verification system must hold employers accountable for knowingly hiring undocumented workers and make it more difficult for unauthorized immigrants to falsify documents to obtain employment. Employers who knowingly hire unauthorized workers must face stiff fines and criminal penalties for egregious offenses.

We believe the federal government must provide U.S. employers with a fast and reliable method to confirm whether new hires are legally authorized to work in the United States. This is essential to ensure the effective enforcement of immigration laws.

Our proposal will create an effective employment verification system which prevents identity theft and ends the hiring of future unauthorized workers. We believe requiring prospective workers to demonstrate both legal status and identity, through non-forgable electronic means prior to obtaining employment, is essential to an employee verification system; and,

The employee verification system in our proposal will be crafted with procedural safeguards to protect American workers, prevent identity theft, and provide due process protections.
IV. Admitting New Workers and Protecting Workers’ Rights

- The overwhelming majority of the 327,000 illegal entrants apprehended by CBP in FY2011 were seeking employment in the United States. We recognize that to prevent future waves of illegal immigration a humane and effective system needs to be created for these immigrant workers to enter the country and find employment without seeking the aid of human traffickers or drug cartels.

- Our proposal will provide businesses with the ability to hire lower-skilled workers in a timely manner when Americans are unavailable or unwilling to fill those jobs.

- Our legislation would:

  - Allow employers to hire immigrants if it can be demonstrated that they were unsuccessful in recruiting an American to fill an open position and the hiring of an immigrant will not displace American workers;

  - Create a workable program to meet the needs of America’s agricultural industry, including dairy to find agricultural workers when American workers are not available to fill open positions;

  - Allow more lower-skilled immigrants to come here when our economy is creating jobs, and fewer when our economy is not creating jobs;

  - Protect workers by ensuring strong labor protections; and,

  - Permit workers who have succeeded in the workplace and contributed to their communities over many years to earn green cards.

---

Seven things you need to know about the new immigration bill

By Kasie Hunt and Carrie Dann, NBC News

While NBC News has reported on many of the key aspects of the new bipartisan Senate immigration reform bill, it’s a huge piece of legislative machinery with a lot of interlocking gears.

The bill was formally filed in the Senate early Wednesday morning - you can read the 844 pages of it here.

But here are some of the main things you'll need to know:

**Q: What exactly is the path to citizenship for undocumented individuals currently living in the United States?**

**A:** If you're an undocumented person who has lived continually in the United States since Dec. 31, 2011, you will be eligible for Registered Provisional Immigrant (RPI) status provided that you have not been convicted of a felony or three or more misdemeanors and that you have not voted illegally. You must pay a fine of $500 as well as back taxes before you can gain this status, which allows you to travel freely and work for any employer. You will not be eligible for federal means-tested public benefits. After six years, if you have not committed any deportable offenses, you can renew your RPI status, which requires an additional fee of $500. After another four years – provided that other external security “triggers” have been met – you can apply for a merit-based visa. You must pay an additional $1000 fine, demonstrate that you have worked regularly in the United States, and show an understanding of civics and the English language. Three years after that, you can become a full citizen.

**Q: What are “triggers?”**

**A:** First, the government needs to write a border security and fencing plans within six months. Once those plans are submitted, undocumented immigrants will be eligible to apply for RPI status. For them to be able to apply for visas, the plans have to be shown to be operational. (The goal is 100 percent surveillance of the border and a 90 percent apprehension rate in the border’s most high risk areas.) If security goals aren’t reached in five years, a group of border governors and experts will be formed to make recommendations on how to achieve them. New entry-exit systems and the E-Verify system for employers will also have to be in place; that process that could take up to five years.

**Q: Okay. But why 10 years until green card eligibility?**

The Daily Rundown's Chuck Todd takes a "deep dive" look into whether the policy and politics surrounding the immigration bill will allow it to pass in Congress.

**A:** A Senate aide to a member of the bipartisan “Gang of Eight” gives three reasons. First, drafters of the bill wanted to make sure that it’s no faster for undocumented individuals (except DREAMers and some agricultural workers) to get a green card than it is for people trying to come to the country legally. Currently, if you are living in the country illegally and return to your home country, you are subject to a decade-long ban before you can return to the United States. Second, the 10-year period gives enough time to clear the existing backlog of legal immigrants before adding to the line of people attempting to come to the country. Third, it makes the overall bill cheaper because the longer people remain on provisional immigrant status, the less money the government spends on benefits.
Q: Wait, but how will immigrants figure out if they owe back taxes? Will they really have to pay them?

A: Yes, immigrants will have to pay back taxes. The immigration legislation leaves those calculations up to the Internal Revenue Service. People applying to stay in the country will have to settle any bills the IRS says they owe.

Q: How does the merit-based visa work? I heard something about a point system?

A: The new system of merit-based visas has two tracks, a Senate aide explains. Both are based on merit -- but the first considers people who have been in the country for a long time. If you've been waiting in the employment backlog, family backlog or if you've been in the country working under a temporary status for 10 years, you'll be eligible for a green card. There's no point system attached.

The second track is for people outside the country, and it assigns points for different factors. This includes options for high-skilled workers with college and advanced degrees as well as for low-skilled workers in the agricultural and "W" section visa programs. After the law is implemented, anyone who wants to come to the United States would go through this merit-based system, which is designed to reward the most deserving candidates.

Q: What about people who come to America because their employer specifically wants them here?

A: Employers will still have a separate system for petitioning for visas for their workers. Anyone with a Ph.D. working in a technical (STEM) field would additionally be exempt from annual caps on employer-based visas.

Q: That all sounds expensive. How much does this thing cost?

There are $17 billion in costs already in the bill, mostly related to border security, a Senate aide says. But the Congressional Budget Office hasn't scored the bill yet, so it's not clear how much that cost will be offset by other factors and fees. The most expensive piece of the bill pays for 3,500 new Customs and Border Patrol inspectors at field offices; this will help move people through airports and land ports more quickly. A lot of the cost will be covered by the fees and fines paid by applicants, particularly the total of $2000 in fines that an undocumented immigrant has to pay on the way to a green card. Gang of Eight staff expect that the bill, if its total effects on the nation's economic growth and revenue streams are taken into account, will be a net positive for the economy in both the long and short terms.
Teaching with the News Online Resource

U.S. Immigration Policy: What Should We Do?4

Since the first European settlers set foot in North America, immigration has suffused the American experience. Indeed, many of the values that unite Americans as a nation are tied to immigration. Immigration has not only framed our vision of the U.S. role in the world, but has seeped into our view of human nature. Ralph Waldo Emerson, for example, saw in immigration a phenomenon that “will construct a new race, a new religion, a new state, a new literature” in the United States. The idealism surrounding immigration explains in large part the deep feelings it evokes in the public policy arena. These sentiments have jostled with concerns about the economy, ethnic relations, social services, the environment, and other issues. In recent years, the debate over immigration has expanded to incorporate a broad range of foreign policy issues. The discussion now features arguments on U.S. relations with Latin America, human rights, international trade, the worldwide refugee crisis, and our national security.

As Congressional representatives debate proposals for reform of current immigration law, it is important for Americans to understand these issues within the wider context of our long-term goals for immigration policy. Current proposals focus primarily on ways to resolve issues related to border control, undocumented workers, and law enforcement. The proposed legislative policies raise additional questions about human rights, the economy, the environment, security, and other issues. What follows are four policy “Options” that frame this question. They are designed to help you think about a range of possible policy directions and the ramifications of each. The four options are put in stark terms to highlight very different approaches. Each option includes some policies, lessons from history, and underlying beliefs. Each also includes a set of criticisms designed to help you think carefully about the trade-offs involved. It is important to understand that the options here do not reflect the views of any one political party or organization. It is your job to sort through the four options presented, deliberate with your peers on the strengths and challenges of each, think about your own concerns and values, and then frame an “Option 5” that reflects your views.

4 “U.S. Immigration Policy: What should we do?” is a Teaching with the News online resource.

Copyright - Choices Program, Watson Institute for International Studies, Brown University All rights reserved. Extension activities and additional web links are available from the Resources section of the Choices Program web site—www.choices.edu/resources

This lesson is excerpted from U.S. Immigration Policy in an Unsettled World. This one-week curriculum unit gives students the tools they need to wrestle with the questions involved in U.S. immigration policy.

http://www.choices.edu/resources/twtn_immigration.php
Option 1: Open Ourselves to the World

At the beginning of the twenty-first century, the forces of globalization are rapidly creating a new world. International trade is steadily expanding, while national borders are losing their significance. People, ideas, and goods traverse the globe at an ever-accelerating pace. In the world of the future, the United States will stand out as a shining example. While rigid nationalism continues to hold back many countries, Americans can take pride in a heritage that promotes openness, tolerance, and diversity. Compared to our chief economic rivals in Japan and Western Europe, the United States is poised to compete in the international marketplace. American movies, music, fashion, and brand names are attractive to people throughout the world because they symbolize a culture that embraces and celebrates many cultures. Immigration puts our country in touch with the tastes and preferences of consumers worldwide, and gives U.S. companies an edge in opening export markets. From its earliest days, the United States has been a land of opportunity for people outside our borders. Each wave of immigrants has contributed to the United States’ greatness and enriched our society. Today, immigrants are still coming. This latest generation of immigrants contains the best and brightest from a rich variety of cultures and regions. Even those lacking a formal education are driven by a strong sense of initiative and an unshakable work ethic. They have come because they believe the United States is the land of opportunity. They recognize that the United States rewards hard work and ability like no other country in the world. In the end, the talents, ambitions, and dreams they bring will benefit all Americans. Keeping our doors open lets the world know that the United States remains a country that looks forward to tomorrow.

What policies should we pursue?
- Remove bureaucratic obstacles in the immigration process that keep family members apart.
- Allow people worldwide with a legitimate fear of persecution the full protection of U.S. refugee and asylum laws.
- Adjust immigration laws to permit greater immigration from countries such as China and Mexico that have been the victims of unfair restrictions in the past.
- Provide immigrants with more opportunities, job training, and English-language instruction to speed their adjustment to American life.
- Ensure that everyone in the United States, including illegal immigrants, has access to education, basic health care, and other essential services.

Option 1 is based on the following beliefs
- America is still a young, vigorous country with room to grow.
- America’s strength lies in its diversity, particularly in the fresh ideas and cultures provided by new immigrants.
- Immigration does not unduly threaten our national security.

Arguments for
- Welcoming new immigrants into our country will inject valuable skills into the U.S. economy and enable American culture to maintain the rich diversity that appeals to consumers the world over.
- Renewing the United States’ long tradition of offering opportunity and refuge for immigrants will earn the United States respect and admiration from people throughout the world.
- Immigrants will take advantage of their ties to their native countries to open up new export markets for American products.

Arguments against
- If immigration continues at its current pace, more than fifty million newcomers will flood into the United States in the next half century, overloading our schools, hospitals, and other social services.
- An open immigration policy will inevitably make it easier for would-be terrorists to enter the country undetected.
• High levels of immigration will deprive American workers of jobs while forcing government to spend more on the needs of immigrants.
• Encouraging highly skilled workers to immigrate to the United States robs poor countries of their most valuable human resources.
• Penning our doors to unskilled immigrants at a time when the U.S. economy offers them few opportunities will only add to our society’s problems.
• High levels of immigration will push our country’s population past tolerable limits and inflict still more harm on our country’s environment.
• The continual arrival of large numbers of immigrants, both legal and illegal, will eventually overwhelm American culture and contribute to the fragmentation of our society.

**Option 2: Make Emigration Unnecessary**

As the new century unfolds, the world is on the move. The population explosion in poor countries, the spread of war and terror, and the age-old curses of hunger and disease are driving increasing numbers to our shores. Emigration from the developing world is at an all time high, and the United States is the destination for the largest percentage of these emigrants. Opening our doors to large-scale immigration resolves no one’s problems. Admitting huge numbers of newcomers into the United States every year not only overburdens our schools and health care system, it drains poor countries of many of their most educated, highly skilled workers. This “brain drain” only adds to the challenge in poor countries of meeting the needs of their own populations.

We are a strong country, but we cannot continue to absorb new immigrants into this country at this breakneck pace and without compromising our own economy and social structure. Nonetheless, both for practical and for humanitarian reasons we cannot fence ourselves off from poverty and suffering outside of our borders. As the strongest economic power on earth and the most sought destination of the world’s poor, the burden of international leadership on this issue rests with the United States. We should join with the international community to provide the development assistance necessary to stabilize the migration of the world’s poor. We should also explore ways to create incentives for the best and brightest in the developing world to stay where they are and contribute their skills to improve conditions in their own countries. By improving life among the world’s poor and disadvantaged, we can get a grip on the forces that drive desperate immigrants to our country’s shores. Ultimately, we will all be better off.

**What policies should we pursue?**

• Expand foreign aid programs and trade benefits to help governments in the developing world to strengthen their economies and reduce the flow of immigration to the United States.
• Join other developed countries to coordinate the resettlement of existing refugees and prevent future refugee crises.
• Apply consistent, humane standards in granting political asylum to refugees, rather than mold refugee policy to suit political purposes.
• Reduce the number of immigration visas awarded annually to 600,000, including refugees.

**Option 2 is based on the following beliefs**

In today’s interconnected world, we must accept that the problems affecting other countries are America’s problems as well.

• By developing well-crafted programs of foreign aid and trade benefits, the United States can help people in poor countries improve their lives.
• While we have an obligation to reduce suffering wherever possible, we have a primary responsibility to the well-being of those here at home.

**Arguments for**

• Expanding foreign aid programs and trade benefits for the developing world will reduce the drain of highly skilled workers from poor countries and also reduce the anger that fuels terrorism.
Developing refugee policies that are consistent and humane will bolster the U.S. image throughout the world.

Reducing the level of immigration to the United States will reduce the drain on our social service resources and allow us to better monitor those who come.

Arguments against

- Dumping money into new foreign aid programs will come at the expense of addressing other, more pressing needs.
- Closing our doors to immigrants will increase resentment of the United States.
- Awarding immigration visas on the basis of humanitarian concerns, rather than economic priorities, will not significantly lower U.S. spending on social services for newcomers.
- As past failures show, U.S. assistance cannot overcome the crippling poverty and social chaos plaguing much of the developing world.
- Without high levels of immigration, the United States will lack the talent and energy to strengthen our country and address future problems.
- No matter what we do, people will always want to come to the United States.

Option 3: Admit the Talent We Need

Economic competition among nations in the twenty-first century is set to reach new levels of intensity. In today’s world, the United States must be prepared to compete in an increasingly demanding global marketplace and adapt to the relentless pace of technological change. In the last few years, our country’s economy has been going through a wrenching readjustment. Businesses are cutting jobs. Government programs are being trimmed. Workers are being forced to do more with less. While our economy has emerged from the trials of downsizing leaner and stronger, the economic recession that has hit in the first years of the new century is taking a toll. We must make sure that our country’s immigration policy is in line with our economic priorities. After calling on working Americans to tighten their belts, we owe them nothing less. Every country has the right to promote its national interests. The United States should be no different. We cannot afford to admit into our country every year hundreds of thousands of newcomers who will be a burden on our society. Immigration policy should be designed first to serve our country’s economic needs, not to solve the world’s problems. A two-pronged approach makes the most sense. To spur American high-tech industries forward, our doors should be open to scientists and engineers from abroad. To help American factories, farms, and service industries hold down costs, we should allow a limited number of foreigners to work temporarily in low-wage jobs. By forging ahead with a realistic, far-sighted strategy, we can make immigration policy work for the United States.

What policies should we pursue?

- Award two hundred thousand immigration visas annually for skilled workers and their families, making the advancement of science and technology the top priority in guiding immigration policy.
- Reduce total annual immigration to five hundred thousand, including refugees, making adjustments to reflect economic conditions. (During an economic downturn, the number of immigration visas should be decreased, while during an economic expansion the number should be increased.)
- Allow a limited number of foreigners to work temporarily in the United States in agriculture and other industries facing labor shortages.
- Offer scholarships to foreign graduate students in science, engineering, and other high-tech fields, provided they will work in the United States for at least five years.
- Deny education, health care, and other social services to illegal aliens, except in cases of emergency.

Option 3 is based on the following beliefs

- Maintaining our economy’s competitive edge is essential to the well-being of Americans.
- Promoting America’s economic strength should be the guiding principle underlying our country’s immigration policy.
• Skilled, well-educated immigrants are most capable of contributing to the betterment of the United States.

Arguments for
• Admitting highly skilled immigrants who are well-suited to the demands of the U.S. economy will help hold down government costs for welfare, health care, and other social services.
• Tailoring U.S. immigration policy to the needs of our economy will attract immigrants who have the most to offer to American industry, especially in high-tech fields.
• Permitting the entry of temporary foreign workers into the labor force will help low-wage industries remain in the United States while competing in the global market.

U.S. Immigration Policy: What should we do?

Arguments against
• Limiting immigration to the well-educated discriminates against worthy applicants who have been deprived of an opportunity to educate themselves.
• Pursuing an immigration policy that overlooks the concerns of other countries will damage U.S. foreign relations, especially with our neighbors to the south.
• Drawing the best and brightest skilled workers from poor countries will undercut economic development in much of the world and harm international stability.
• Admitting foreigners as temporary workers and denying social services to illegal aliens will create a group of second-class citizens with few rights and little stake in American society.
• Reducing the number of immigration visas available for family reunification will leave many close relatives apart.
• Assisting foreign graduate students in science and engineering will deprive Americans of jobs and educational opportunities, and leave many of our most important high-tech industries dominated by foreign-born workers.

Option 4: Restrict Immigration

The world is changing at a breakneck pace. The population explosion, war, terror, hunger, and disease plague an ever-growing portion of humanity. The United States is a strong country, but it cannot solve the world’s problems. As the planet’s population soars from six billion today to an estimated ten billion by the year 2050, we must recognize that Americans can do little to end the misery that haunts much of the world. On the contrary, the forces of economic change have left millions of Americans struggling to keep up. Many of us are working longer hours than ever just to make ends meet. Schools are overcrowded and underfunded, while health care costs have skyrocketed. Simply maintaining our way of life amounts to a major challenge.

The arguments supporting massive immigration in the United States have long since passed into history. At a time when our country is trimming back social services for our own citizens, we can hardly afford to keep the door open every year to roughly one million newcomers from poor nations. The world’s disadvantaged people cannot be blamed for wanting to enter the United States. Many of them lead lives of desperation and hopelessness. But the United States has already given enough. For decades, we have accepted more immigrants than all the other countries of the world combined. Now it is time to say stop. We have the right to preserve the uniquely American culture that has been created over the past two centuries. We have a duty to stop the senseless influx of unskilled immigrants that holds down wages for struggling American workers. We should drastically reduce the number of immigrants we accept and commit the resources necessary to take control of our borders. The threat of runaway change must be brought under control.

What policies should we pursue?
• Reduce the number of immigration visas awarded annually to the level set in 1965—two hundred ninety thousand—including refugees.
• Strengthen border control by tripling the number of Border Patrol agents, constructing impassable
barriers at major crossing points along the U.S.-Mexican border, and swiftly deporting foreigners who overstay their visas.

- Introduce a national identity card that all workers would be required to present when applying for employment and social services.
- Pressure the governments of the Caribbean to take steps to prevent mass movements of refugees to the United States.
- Insist that those seeking political asylum apply at U.S. embassies in foreign countries.
- End the policy of granting automatic citizenship to the children of foreigners born in the United States.

Option 4 is based on the following beliefs

- The United States is one of the few islands of stability and prosperity in a world marked largely by poverty and desperation.
- Continued high levels of immigration would overwhelm America’s unique culture.
- High levels of immigration deprive America’s poor of opportunities for economic advancement.

Arguments for

- Reducing immigration will allow the United States to hold down spending for education, health care, and other social services.
- Restoring firm control over our borders will help us reduce the flow of drugs into the United States and strengthen our defenses against international terrorism.
- Lowering the number of newcomers entering the U.S. labor market will make more jobs available for American workers, especially those with few skills.

Arguments against

- Fencing off our neighbors to the south and restricting immigration from abroad will fuel anti-American sentiment throughout the world, and harm relations with many of our leading trading partners.
- Closing the door on new immigrants will deprive the American work force of skills, talent, and ambition.
- Introducing a national identity card will make foreign-born Americans a target for suspicion and discrimination.
- Drastically reducing immigration will create a society that lacks a solid understanding of the world beyond our borders.
- Without young immigrants entering the country, American workers will face a heavy burden in supporting the steadily increasing elderly population.
- Severely cutting back immigration will leave many recently arrived Americans separated from close family members in their native lands.