

Team Number: ARTHS103

School Name: Artesia High School

Area of Science: Political Science

Project Title: Can Number and Statistics prove or disprove common misconceptions about immigration?

Problem Definition:

Immigration, being surrounded by misconceptions, is giving current immigrants a negative reputation in the United States. Many US citizens believe that immigrants steal the best jobs, burden the national economy, or that most are here illegally. They also believe that banning all immigrants will keep the US safe from terrorism. People also have the idea that immigrants bring in crime and violence. While we cannot say at this moment whether these assumptions are true we can say they are giving current immigrants a bad reputation. Having such ideas about immigrants will make it more complicated for immigrants to merge into US society. As a country we need to look at the facts and determine whether or not immigration is as bad as some people make it out to be.

Problem Solution:

Our simulation will be based off of real data. We are doing extensive research about all the misconceptions and plan to plug those numbers into a simulation. Of course we would love to be able to disprove all these misconceptions but that may not be the case. We believe that having a simulation to show the numbers will help people understand immigration more deeply. We will use Netlogo to simulate immigration and what jobs they take, how they affect the economy, crime and violence rates, and whether or not banning immigration will make the US safer. We are hoping these simulations will prove to people the real impact of immigration.

Progress to Date:

We have gathered several pieces of number information. There are graphs and surveys that we are comparing and finding the averages of. Our next step is to find papers written about our topic and comparing them to the numbers we have collected. After we have all of our numbers and facts written out we will plug them into NetLogo to create a visual to assist our research.

Expected Results:

One of the biggest findings we expect to see is the difference in opinions and numbers. Of course there will be outliers and differences that is why we are focusing on averages. With that being said we do expect to be able to disprove almost all of the stereotypes. We also expect some of the stereotypes to be impossible to prove or disprove, and that is okay. When dealing with political science like we are it is to be expected that some questions cannot be answered. Our main goal is to provide enough information where the general public can understand the situation better and create their own opinions not just follow what they have been told or what they have seen.

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