Migration Trends in US History, 19th-21st Century

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CSU Spring Symposium Abstract

The American History curriculum in the state of Ohio emphasizes analysis of both the causes and the impact of immigration and migration on the American society. Because our disciplines are focused on U.S. History, Spanish, and ESL, this group of teachers decided to design a student-driven project that could be curtailed to either focus on Spanish-speaking immigrants coming to the United States, or could be expanded to allow students to choose from a larger list of potential immigrant groups from all over the world that have historically immigrated to the United States. Either way, student groups have the opportunity to choose the migrant group of their choice. Using both primary and secondary sources, students will research the push-pull factors influencing immigration, and the impact of the migration on both the migrant group and on the larger American society. Their final project will entail both a written document and Works Cited page and a multimedia style presentation of the immigrant group researched. I am proposing to provide a poster that incorporates all of the aspects of the project, and also possible past examples of student work, at the symposium.

Biography: Yvonne Horstman
Yvonne Horstman has been a Social Studies teacher at the high school level for 20 years. With a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and a Masters' Degree in Secondary Education Curriculum and Instruction, she has in recent years been teaching U.S. History and a team-taught course at Shaker Heights High School called American Experience. This course is designed to align the curriculum of U.S. History with related literature in English, as well as provide multiple Project-Based Learning Units for students to more deeply examine key topics and themes in U.S. History. Additionally, Yvonne currently teaches an elective called Human Rights and Conflict which incorporates examining issues related to global migration around the world today.