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## Research Paper on Border Security

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## **Reaching Border Security Within Immigration**

### **Introductory Section:**

Immigration. What first comes to your mind when you hear that word? To many, the word may incur perceptions such as illegality, hiding, refugees, or even economic anxieties. Most may not think of immigration to be a word to associate with money, but the significance is that several people do not understand the logical causes that prompt why immigration may occur. First, starting with the definition of immigration, it is the move and action individuals do by finding a new place to live in a different country for what could be many different reasons. Why? Some of those reasons can include wanting to have better living conditions, opportunities to find work, be with their families, or to get an education. Some may confuse refugees with immigrants, but when it comes to refugees, they are individuals who were forced to leave their home country due to different push factors such as violence or unbearable living conditions whereas immigrants choose to leave for better options under their own choice and willingness. To relate to the topic, many individuals are not eligible to cross the border due to certain obligations. Individuals go through scenarios of border security because they are not legal in the host country. Once an individual crosses the border without legal representation of citizen proof, they are now an illegal immigrant to the host country.

This essay discusses problems in border security dealing with many individuals crossing the border every day while trying not to get caught or seen by the border security guards, also

known as the Border Security Forces. The Border Security Forces are individuals who protect the border from any people that could cause harm within the country. The issue of border security has taken on additional importance over the past few years because there have been several events in recent times that have brought this topic to the forefront of people's views. Studying this topic can open the eyes of many to see why and how this affects not only the ones who are immigrating but also the citizens of the host country. The topic of immigration can evoke a lot of emotions in different individuals because of family histories or personal histories of immigration. When an individual is reading over this paper, they may find that there are many examples used that could speak to them on an emotional level or thought. Some individuals may have a personal experience with it or know someone and it may bring up emotions due to immigration being an emotional topic in some cases. Emotions affect the way people perceive the situation as seeing the tragedies families face while trying to cross the border is unsightly because a goal was set to gain a better life. When dealing with logic and statistics in this writing, audiences will find an interest in this aspect of immigration because as one reads the statistics on how many people are affected the facts will encourage a greater stimulation of the topic. Through statistics, the audience can see the misdoing and prejudice immigrants have been facing throughout the years. The credibility of the information gathered can also play a role as the audience can read this writing because it is trustworthy and attention-grabbing.

Writers who have seen the tragedies or perhaps even interviewed immigrants who have been denied access or are constantly trying to get to the United States could have far more personal stories from those that are facing immigration firsthand, which can subsequently invoke logic or emotions based on the interaction that the writer had. Some may find different key objects or sources and some may not find anything at all. This theoretical study consists of

gathering new information and a better understanding of what immigration border security does to and for immigrants. The research proposal does not address or contribute to a new phenomenon. Immigration and border security is a worldwide topic that many individuals are aware of. It has been happening since the 1900s and is still happening to this present day. At times, in the country of the United States, it has decreased and increased when looking at statistics. Think of immigration like the four seasons, at times, it is lower in numbers and at times it is not that high in numbers. Immigration is a huge thing relating to the country, as it can be related to politics, country civics, population, environment, economy, and a lot more. In this research proposal, the study of immigration dealing with border security creates a similar topic to an individual's knowledge because one already might know the context behind the mistreatment of those seeking opportunities in different countries around the world.

A nation that is supposed to be open to the idea of immigrating freely between the borders without having the concern of being sent back is what the United States is supposed to be. Encouraging the influx of immigrants around the entire world was the plan. Supporting the culture and lifestyle of new immigrants was the idea. Unfortunately, these ideas have been discarded from the "American" mind as multiple immigrants today face the outcome of heavy border security presence, which leads to immigrants not being able to reach the country that may be better for their family or perhaps for job opportunities that are not available in their home country. As stated above, the research will examine the acts of misdoings and prejudices against immigrants and how it affects not only immigrants but also the United States. The essay displays that it is morally wrong for the immigrants today to be treated as if they are plaguing countries around the world because nobody under the definition of the United States should face the judgment of value or color. With that being said it should make aliens essential to the foundation

and construction of the country. What many people do not know are the behind-the-scenes of border security dealing with immigrants getting caught. A lot of the individuals known as immigrants will be abused, sexually assaulted, killed, taken from their families, etc. To think about the backstory as to why these people chose to cross the border in the first place probably came from a negative, toxic, abusive household or relationship and it happens to them all over again at the border. Many individuals will try to cross illegally because of these things that happen, but once the individual gets caught, everything changes. Things like that should not be happening.

### **Background and Context:**

The topic of immigration started very early on in America, during the colonial era and the first part of the 19th century. Immigration has always been a controversial issue around the world. During the 18th century, Americans encouraged free and open immigration, and no policies were in place for questioning. In the 1880s, Congress first began to pass immigration legislation. Numerous laws were passed that individuals did not agree with. For example, The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and the Alien Contract Labor Laws of 1885 and 1887 were passed. These laws excluded many laborers from immigrating to the United States. These laws were the start of restricting immigration laws in the United States. Which goes against the beliefs of the early immigrant settlers of the United States because that nation as stated encouraged free and open immigration.

Immigration is still a contentious issue in the United States today with several new immigration laws being enacted and amended. The Homeland Security Act was passed by Congress in 2002 to prevent terrorist attacks, minimize the country's vulnerability, and to also

safeguard the country from dangerous immigrants. This act was implemented in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States. Immigration laws are constantly changing to protect the country as a whole, but this is causing more immigrants to enter the country illegally since these laws have made it more difficult for them to do so legally. The current President of the United States, Joe Biden, has attempted to reverse former President Trump's restrictions on immigration. Biden has also lifted limitations put in place during the coronavirus pandemic that substantially decreased the number of immigration visas awarded. Biden's most significant immigration proposal to date would allow more potential immigrants into the United States while also providing a path to legal status for millions of undocumented immigrants currently in the country. These recent events on immigration restrictions and regulations are significant because the constraints on immigrants entering the United States are continually changing for the better of immigrants, but also better for many Americans.

With the recent pandemic, many American businesses have suffered greatly due to the temporary lockdown of the U.S. and a very slow increase of returning customers who were all afraid of contracting a case of Covid-19. Many small stores and restaurants had to shut down since there were not enough or no customers to keep them going financially. Other locations had to shut down due to a lack of staff to keep the business running. While there may seem like no hope for these Americans, the recent changes in Immigration restrictions could save them. With a flux of immigrants being allowed into the states, that means millions are looking for jobs to be able to sustain a healthy new lifestyle in their new home country for them and their possible families. If Americans were to capitalize on this population boom, several could find more labor to get their businesses back up and running or continue to keep their business running.

Reducing immigration restrictions would be a very significant positive for the American citizens economically, but it would also be a huge positive for the safety of Americans as well. With the number of illegal immigrants in the states, it's hard to know who your neighbor is and whether they could be a possible threat to you and your family. With the recent changes, many of those illegal immigrants would become documented, making it a far more safe environment for the American citizens, knowing their neighbor is a documented U.S. citizen. While immigrants are the ones who can truly benefit from the recent changes Joe Biden has made to immigration restrictions, so can the American citizens as proven above. While restrictions on immigration can stretch back for decades, it is most prevalent right now because of the amount of positive reform that has come to the system recently, and quite frankly at a perfect time for the American citizens to also benefit from it.

**Evidence:**

For this research paper, numerous sources contributed to the overall research on border security within reaching immigrants. After completing research on immigration, it was found that many articles on immigration and refugees are often biased, but there are also articles discussing fair reasons why an individual may migrate to a host country.

Immigration is a controversial topic in the community. It is common for individuals to immediately refer to immigrants as illegal, refugees, criminals, and other impolite adjectives. Many believe that immigrants can bring crime and violence along with them. There are many stereotypes and theories about immigrants of different ethnicities. For example, middle Easterns are often referred to as "terrorists" and Latin Americans are often depicted as "violent criminals

and murderers.” The research paper is also asking, “What push factors cause immigrants to migrate?” Following the research, articles have proven time after time that many immigrants migrate for better safety, better jobs, to be closer to family, and overall for a better opportunity in life.

After doing research on border security within reaching immigrants, there were many personal articles found on immigrants migrating to start a new beginning. In this project, many found articles have been discussing the struggles and what immigrants have to deal with when trying to migrate. It is important when researching to complete it without any previous opinions or biases.

Another thing that is important in writing essays is including rhetorical appeals. Adding those into an essay can improve the writing by arguing the point to get across when constructing or deconstructing an argument to an audience. For instance, in this case of dealing with the logistical points from what others are saying, you want to get reasoning or logic to their side and why that is their opinion. From what others are saying about border restrictions, there are statistics, logic, and reasoning behind everyone's opinion and standpoint on what they believe in. An article called “How Americans See Illegal Immigration, the Border Wall and Political Compromise” by *Pew Research Center* demonstrates how Americans and individuals view immigration and border security. In this article, it says, “In a survey conducted ahead of last year's midterm elections, three-quarters of registered voters who planned to support the GOP candidate in their congressional district said illegal immigration was a very big problem in the country, versus just 19% among voters who planned to support their Democratic candidate for Congress” (John Gramlich). When the author talks about this, he mentioned statistics about the American population who voted and their opinion on border security. The logistical standpoint

ties along with this because it shows the appeal of logic and many individuals' choices and points of view.

One of the second rhetorical appeals to show what others are saying is pathos. Many people have different emotions about different things depending on what they may be. For example, in this instance, many individuals may have emotional trauma or experiences with border security within immigration. Some may have experienced themselves personally, have a family member in the system, or may know someone. It all has a different effect on everyone to see how they are treated and shut down due to citizenship. An example from a political standpoint about emotions is how individuals will react to a higher-up person or company releasing information about border security. If something an individual hears is something they do not like or if it will affect them physically, they will evoke many emotions of sadness, worry, anger, etc. When dealing with the evocation of emotions on what others are saying, many do not support border security especially if they deal with it personally. The last rhetorical appeal is the ethos view. Ethos is the act of conveying credibility and authority. In other terms, it shows that what is used came from a trustworthy source and grabs readers' attention. A quote from a recent Baylor University graduate named Jeff Kim who is a child of an immigrant family in the country of South Korea says, "They live in constant fear of not knowing what's going to happen to them. They also live in fear of having no voice or power to change what affects them the most"(Kim). This is a credible source and quote because as said before, it comes from someone who has a family history and background in the situation. It is also trustworthy with personal experience. When having credible and trustworthy quotes in writing, can add more attention-grabbing from the audience because it shows you are pulling the information from a credible source to know

what others are saying. Rhetorical appeals add many things to writing such as a stronger argument and can allow the writer to be more persuasive when needed to be.

Metacommentary is also a tool used to practice writing to persuade your side of an argument or point of view. It enables the audience to not lose track of their view on the stance they are reading. For example, if someone were to have you read an essay on why you should not eat a certain food, the reader or audience should still know what they believe in and stand for once reading the essay or writing. In this case, the paper is telling you about border security within immigration, but before reading everyone has their own opinions. To use metacommentary in this writing is to inform you on what others are saying by letting you know what people say about border security. Many do not support it and many do, but it all comes down to every person's own personal opinion and thoughts.

### **Analysis:**

Immigration restrictions have only been set to burden both the affected population and the creators themselves. How great can a policy be when the policy benefits nobody? The answer is quite an easy one for everyone to understand, it is not great. Immigration restrictions were put into place in the hopes of decreasing the rising numbers of illegal immigrants entering through the U.S. borders. The problem is, with restrictions being so steep, how is one supposed to enter legally when it is next to impossible to enter through the U.S. legal immigration system? The answer for many is that they cannot. While yes, one can enter legally, the time it may take for one to gain access to enter may be an impossible wait. With such unfair policies that some cannot work with, the only thing they can do is enter the country illegally because they have no

other option. While the stance that entering the U.S. illegally is acceptable is not one of this paper, there should be a revised immigration policy that allows for immigrants to enter legally while also keeping safety measures to a high standard.

The issues of immigration restrictions can date back all the way to 1917 when the first “restriction” on immigration was made official. In the article, “*The Immigration Act of 1924 (The Johnson-Reed Act)*”, the first couple of immigration restrictions are found, ranging from a new literacy test that immigrants above the age of 16 had to pass, to some races being outright denied at the border due to tensions with their home countries. While such racial restrictions are removed and have no official effect on immigrants, other restrictions such as immigrant quotas based on the population of their home country and higher tax fees for those that had just become citizens. Throughout the last century of American history, immigration restrictions have only become worse and it was not until the addition of the IIRIRA in 1996 that immigration went from a difficult task to an almost impossible task. The IIRIRA added significant additions to immigration restriction laws such as having illegal immigrants that have been previously caught in the past, wait up to almost 2-10 years for them to be able to enter legally. This is an unfair move toward immigrants when the restrictions in place impede them to such a strong degree that some have no other choice but to migrate illegally, but are punished for taking such a route. If the restrictions were not to such an absurd level, action against those who enter illegally would be justified, but in the case of modern-day restrictions, it becomes a “pick your poison” type of situation.

The research done to understand the situation at hand has helped tremendously to show why the loosening of the restrictions would help those trying to seek a new life in the U.S., but what does it mean for those who already live here? How will it affect the U.S. citizens?

Depending on how you see immigrants will determine how it will affect you. Some will only see it as dangerous and refuse to see how it could benefit us. On the other hand, those that find the lessening of restrictions as a positive will be the ones able to benefit from it. With so many immigrants entering the states legally, they will each need new jobs to begin supporting themselves and their possible family members. The individuals who need that extra hand with a business they own will have more possible employees due to the large number of immigrants entering the states. This would also benefit those working for businesses since they would have more coworkers to help them work.

**Implications:**

Most people don't realize who border security doesn't affect and why it doesn't affect certain individuals. In this essay, the audience follows up on individuals who are wanting to learn more about border security within immigration. Border Security does not affect all people, but to who it does affect is what's important. It does not affect individuals with legal copyright paperwork and legal documentation to cross the border. In some cases, it does not affect individuals based on race and/ or ethnicity, as well. Being a border patrol officer, you have to check carefully to make sure you do not let people in illegally. Border security has strict allegations and guidelines they have to do and will affect. Another group of people that border security will not benefit from is victims of human traffickers and individuals trying to smuggle drugs across the border. Think of it as like if the United States were to lower border security, who will it hurt? If the U.S. lowers the security at the border, it will increase the chances to have more people crossing legally getting human trafficked, or hiding drugs. The ones who will be getting hurt or not helped will be the ones to not benefit from border security. Judging based on

the claim that we do not support border security within immigration, there are a lot of pros and cons following the action. Some things that can help identify it as a pro would be to allow the United States to be safe from any harm or damage that individuals can bring over and it would stop illegal actions upon crossing the border. Some cons to that to follow on border patrol can be if an illegal individual wants to cross the border and get a better education, they will not be able to due to border patrol. Another con is that border security guards will treat the humans wrong and equal treatment won't be granted to them due to them being illegal. Some have chances to get abused or possibly killed at the border. After the millions of pros and cons and who border security will affect and not affect, I still stand by my claim of not supporting border patrol.

When we were researching border security and control, we understood there could be a variety of counter-arguments. Some would argue that border control is needed because otherwise, criminals and violence would be able to enter our country. This myth has been around since the beginning. Although some immigrants do commit violent and property crimes, they are less likely to do so in general. Illegal immigrants are not correlated with violent crimes, and they are not more likely to commit a crime than a native to the country. Another popular argument we've heard is that immigrants would take jobs away from Americans. This counterargument is that this is probably the most common issue we have seen. Immigrants increase the supply and demand sides of the economy. Some may also think that it is wrong to allow illegal immigrants to continue to live in our country. Border security has become so strict, if not impossible, that it is only increasing the number of undocumented immigrants. We still stand by our claim, not supporting border security, after reading about controversial problems surrounding it.

**Conclusion/ Concluding Claims:**

As stated the main goal of the research is to show the U.S audience that allowing illegal immigrants into the country ultimately shows an increase in the development and culture of the country. Most see immigrants as “leeches” that exasperate the economy, however, this is not true as they tend to work in jobs that U.S citizens would not want to partake in. Without immigrants, the economy that citizens know today would cease to exist. Adding to that, cultures are brought by the immigrants that allow citizens today to appreciate the things of that nature that they bring; this can be things like food, religions, etc... Making it the utmost apparent for officials to see that immigrants make the society and economy function.

Throughout this essay, there have been several key topics that have served to support the overall claim that border restrictions have only been set to burden all. Some things that have been achieved can follow as finding more information on the pros and cons of border security within immigration that we may have not known before, finding information about the political and economic side of immigration and border patrol, and also why many people do or do not support border security. What first comes to your mind when you hear immigration was asked at the beginning of the essay. When we asked that, what did you think about it? Did you think about the people sneaking across the border and getting caught? Did you think of how and why some individuals want to leave their country for a new one? Did you think about how the immigrants are treated and looked at due to wanting to leave their country? Or did you think about how rough it is for the individuals to deal with the security guards at the border if they were to get caught illegally? Many of you probably thought of the emotions of the immigrants who immigrated by dealing with pathos. Some may have thought about our reasoning for why we do not support border security from dealing with logos. Some may have the thought of if all of this information is all true, cited correctly, or trustworthy to believe, that is using ethos. To

help think of this situation dealing with immigration, think of a family member close to you who lives in Mexico or a different country other than the United States. After years of one of your family members living in a country other than the United States, think of everything they would have to go through and follow up on if they wanted to immigrate to another country, such as the U.S. Using these rhetorical appeals to follow this anecdote, think of the emotions, reason, and trustworthiness of that individual crossing the border.

In this essay, we have discovered that we do not support border security within immigration for many reasons, yet some readers may challenge or have different views or standpoints or some will dispute the claim, but for the research paper, this is where we stand. To follow some individuals possibly getting offended, this essay is not to change the minds of people, but to open the views and find more information as to why we as a group do not support border security within immigration.

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