

Questioning Immigration Proposals

by Angela Orlando

Right now a lot of people are talking about our immigration laws. The President supports “comprehensive immigration reform” and the Senate and the House of Representatives have each passed their own bills. Our elected officials don’t yet agree on which of the proposed policies should become the law. There are many other groups, academics, media personalities, and others who are also airing their opinions. It’s hard to sort out all the differences and decide what will be right for our country. Here are some questions that will help you examine the current debate on immigration and can be applied to any other policy question. You can also use these questions to think about the policy pieces included in this issue on pages 28, 49, 58, and 64.

Good Questions to Ask:

1. What do you already believe about this? How did you form your opinion?
2. Who will this help? Who will this hurt?
3. What questions do you have about this policy option and how will you get information about it?
4. How would proposed policy changes affect you or people you know?
5. Who is the person providing the opinion and why might they take this position? What do you know about the person? Can you guess why they might take this position? How would you respond to this person?
6. Find a quote from somebody in the newspaper, news, or from friends about immigration policy and try to figure out their values. How do you make sense of what they are saying?



John Trever, The Albuquerque Journal

Places to look for more information:

American Friends Service Committee

<www.afsc.org/immigrants-rights/default.htm>

Farm Labor Organizing Committee

<www.floc.com>

Immigration Policy Center

<www.aifl.org/ipc/ipc_index.asp>

National Immigration Forum

<www.immigrationforum.org>

National Immigration Law Center

<www.nilc.org>

National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild

<www.nationalimmigrationproject.org>

National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

<www.nnirr.org>

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