

Do People Feel Safe Enough?

Shenayder D. Occius

BEFORE YOU READ: Why might some people feel it is not safe to fill out the census?

In the U.S., there are many different people from all over the world. Some of them feel afraid because they do not have documents. It is going to be difficult for the census to get an accurate count.

Last year, a friend from my country had a dream to live in the U.S. He left Haiti and went to

Brazil. He worked there for six months and made enough money to travel. He took a bus from Brazil to Mexico and then he crossed into California.

Now he is in this country without any documents, but he is not the only one who comes to

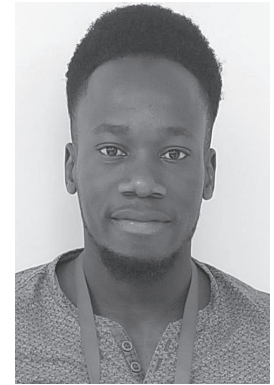
the U.S. this way. Millions of other people come to the U.S. this way. How will the census count all of these people? I say that this is an impossible feat.

I think many of these people will not feel safe enough to fill out the census. Anyone who is an immigrant probably feels uncomfortable. Physically you are in this country, but you may not be a legal citizen. Even if you are a legal citizen, some people treat you like you are not welcome here.

I feel that if more people understood the purpose behind the census, they may consider being counted, although not likely.

AFTER YOU READ: How does the author answer the question he poses in the title? What does he think *might* change people's minds about the census?

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How Would You Respond?

Beginners: Use the information on pp. 3-5. **Intermediate learners:** add information from pp. 7-9. **More advanced:** add in the article on pp. 12-13. Fill out an organizer modeled on the one below. Then use the information you gathered to write a letter to someone you know who might be feeling afraid to fill out the census. Cite your sources.

Page Number	Benefit to you and your community of filling out census	Ways your information is protected	Consequences of not filling out the census



Download beginner, intermediate, and advanced lesson packets, "Why Fill Out the Census? Adult Learners Explain" at changeagent.nelrc.org/in-the-classroom/lesson-packets.