

The Change Agent's Call for Articles

Respond to a prompt and submit your writing!

Introduction

The next three issues of *The Change Agent* will be about immigrants and immigration. Our Call for Articles is divided into three sections. (See below.) Submissions on these themes will be organized into three different issues, which will be published on August 15, 2022; November 15, 2022; and February 15, 2023. Students whose pieces are accepted will receive a \$50 gift card. You may publish anonymously if you wish. Submit your work by email to cpeters@worlded.org.

Deadline: May 6, 2022.



1. Creating New Community

A. If you are an immigrant:

- What has it been like creating community in your new country? Describe how you do (or don't) connect with other immigrants and non-immigrants at school or at work or in your neighborhood.
- Compare school in the U.S. with school in your country of origin. How is it different for you or your kids? What would make the transition easier?
- What is it like for you at work? What challenges do you face? What would help you address those challenges?
- Are you part of any organizations that address immigrant issues -- for example, social clubs or groups that advocate for new laws in the U.S.? If so, describe what you do.
- If you are an undocumented immigrant, what challenges do you face? What would you like readers to know?

B. If you are not an immigrant:

- How does your school system, workplace, or neighborhood receive immigrants? What works well? What could be improved?

- If there has been a "wave" of new immigrants into your community or workplace, describe it. Be specific about where the immigrants are from and what the process has been like. What is productive and transformative about new populations joining an existing population? What is challenging? What needs to happen to make the process go more smoothly?
- What jobs do immigrants tend to take? How does that affect non-immigrant workers? (If you have experience with this, please describe it. If you speak in general terms, please do research and cite your sources.)
- Do you have stories from your ancestors about their immigration story? If so, share one.

C. For immigrants and non-immigrants:

- What do you notice about immigrants at work? In your community, do they fall into certain jobs or kinds of work? Why or why not? What problems do immigrants face at work and what can we do to address those problems?
- Is racism or sexism a factor when it comes to immigrant populations being welcomed into the U.S.? If so, describe.
- What laws or reforms should people advocate for in the U.S. related to immigration? Why?

2. Access and Advocacy

- Have you used the internet to access services (such as rental assistance or reduced price school lunch)? If so, how did that work out? What sort of device did you use (laptop, phone, tablet)? Did you do it by yourself or did anyone help you? What could make the process go better?
- The Affordable Connectivity Program (<https://www.fcc.gov/acp>) provides discounted internet access and devices. (Read about the program at the link provided and in the article by Judy Mortrude on pp. 22-24 of this magazine.) What would you need to do to participate in this program? What type of support would you need to participate? What do you think of the program? Is it worthwhile?
- Undocumented immigrants should be able to access this benefit if they are eligible. Do you think undocumented immigrants will take advantage of this program? Why or why not? What, if anything, should we do to make sure undocumented immigrants have access to benefits like this?
- What is it like for families that have mixed-status members? For example, the parents are not documented but the children are citizens. What can they do to access services? What might stop them? Speak from your own experience if you can, or describe the experience of someone you know.
- Before the pandemic, you probably attended adult education classes in person. During the pandemic, a lot of learning has shifted to online. How did you manage this transition? What motivates you to stick with the process? What works well for you? What is challenging? What would make it easier?
- Tell a story about a time you advocated for something. For example, you wrote to an elected official, attended a protest, organized for better working conditions, or advocated for your child. Describe what happened.

3. Your Story Matters!

- Why did you come to the U.S.? What were the conditions in your home country that made you decide to leave?
- Describe the journey you took to get to the U.S.
- When you arrived in the U.S., what made you feel welcome and what was hard to adjust to? What helped you adjust?
- Do some research about global immigration. What is “pushing” people out of certain countries, and what is “pulling” them towards others?
- Research the role of climate change in immigration. How do environmental changes force people to move? Has the weather or climate in your home country changed? What do you think will happen in the near future?
- If you are not an immigrant, what is your experience with immigrant communities in your city or town? What kinds of changes have they brought? How has your community welcomed them (or not)?
- Some say, “We are all immigrants.” Why do you think they say that? Others disagree. They say Indigenous people and many African Americans did not “immigrate” here. What do they mean?

Don't Forget!

1. Speak from the heart, include details, cite your sources.
2. Put contact information on every document you submit (not just in the email).
3. Beginners are welcome to submit. Do not use Google translate. Just write at your English level, which will be perfect for readers who are also learning English.