

## Five Key Facts about Immigration

1. People who immigrated through Ellis Island had a 90% chance of being allowed to enter, while today's laws only allow about 10% to do so.
  2. Most of the parents who bring their children with them are fleeing violence at home. This gang violence arose in the chaos after the 1980s Central American civil wars, which went on for years (in part due to US military aid.)
  3. The effect of immigration on American jobs is...largely neutral. Immigrants replace some native-born workers, but they add to the consumer market that creates jobs. Also: immigrants are members of unions at the same rate as their percentage in the general population.
  4. On balance, immigrants contribute to the federal budget. Immigrant children crowd certain school districts, but Social Security has millions of unexplained dollars because of undocumented workers paying into the system. They also pay sales tax, of course.
  5. Virtually all immigrants' children who are raised here speak English.
- [Julie Leininger Pycior](#), Professor Emeritus of History Manhattan College. [Sources available upon request: [julie.pycior@manhattan.edu](mailto:julie.pycior@manhattan.edu)]