



Welcome to the Civic Lab!

This resource page includes conversation starters and materials for exploring immigration.

Conversation Questions

1. Journalists and librarians have stopped using the term “illegal alien” and instead prefer the term “undocumented immigrant.” What is the significance of this terminology?
2. What is your family’s migration story?
3. What impact would deporting all undocumented immigrants have on our country?
4. Skokie has a proud immigrant community. What can you do to welcome new residents to our community?
5. Family question: Should anyone who wants to become an American citizen be able to?

Key Definitions

These definitions are from *Merriam-Webster’s Learner’s Dictionary*:

- *Amnesty* – noun, a decision that a group of people will not be punished or that a group will be allowed to go free
- *Deportation* – noun, the removal from a country of an alien whose presence is unlawful or prejudicial
- *Undocumented* – adjective, not having the official documents that are needed to enter, live in, or work in a country legally

Core Resources

These items were selected by our librarians as core resources for the Civic Lab.

For adults:

- *We Too Sing America: South Asian, Arab, Muslim, and Sikh Immigrants Shape Our Multiracial Future* by Deepa Iyer
- *Just Like Us: The True Story of Four Mexican Girls Coming of Age in America* by Helen Thorpe



The Civic Lab at Skokie Public Library offers information and thought-provoking activities to support dialogue and engagement on issues that affect our community.

For young adults:

- *Joyride* by Anna Banks
- *The Good Braider* by Terry Farish

For children and families:

- *Two White Rabbits* by Jairo Buitrago
- *A Long Pitch Home* by Natalie Dias Lorenzi

Additional Resources

These library materials are excellent choices for further exploration.

For adults:

- *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- *Illegal: Reflections of an Undocumented Immigrant* by José Ángel N.
- *In the Country We Love: My Family Divided* by Diane Guerrero
- *A Better Life* from Summit Entertainment

For young adults:

- *Return to Sender* by Julia Alvarez
- *The Secret Side of Empty* by Maria E. Andreu
- *Denied, Detained, Deported: Stories from the Dark Side of American Immigration* by Ann Bausum
- *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan
- *Hold Tight, Don't Let Go: A Novel of Haiti* by Laura Rose Wagner

For children and families:

- *I'm New Here* by Anne Sibley O'Brien
- *Inside Out & Back Again* by Thanhha Lai
- *The Turtle of Oman* by Naomi Shihab Nye
- *Grandfather's Journey* by Allen Say