

Waleed Hassan

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Immigration

The article “What Every American Should Know About the Immigrant Experience” by Araceli Hernandez speaks about the importance of including young immigrants in discussions about American citizenship and identity. Youth views and beliefs are discarded and are not seen as important. However, immigrants and the youth community voices should be included in our national discussions about civic purpose.

As part of this effort, Araceli Hernandez, a 10th-grade student from Mexico City, shares her personal experiences as the daughter of Mexican immigrants living in the United States.

“Constantly being told repulsive comments, not being paid the same as others, having to work twice as hard for the same job—these are things some Mexican immigrants have to live with on a daily basis”. She describes how immigrants are frequently subjected to derogatory and hurtful remarks, and how she has witnessed her parents work tirelessly to provide a better life for their family. Being an immigrant puts a barrier and a heavy load on their back. Working becomes more draining than it should be and the wages are usually low.

Araceli's story emphasizes the importance of Americans understanding the challenges that immigrants face and challenging harmful stereotypes. “The Know-Nothings were an anti-immigration political party in the 1850s”. The political group was created to insult and

verbally abuse immigrants. This only increases stereotypes and more hate towards that group. The labeling of immigrants as "know-nothings" is not only inaccurate, but also harmful. It reinforces the notion that immigrants are somehow inferior or less intelligent than native-born Americans, further marginalizing them.

Finally, Americans have to recognize immigrants as being equal to them and allowing them the same opportunities. It is significant to include young people in discussions about citizenship and identity. It was also very important to bring more awareness to discrimination and stereotypes about immigrants to create a positive environment.