Confronting Faulty Narratives in the Immigration Debate
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Abstract: As educators seek to sort through the controversial topic of immigration, they should realize the many unsubstantiated narratives surrounding immigration which students often see as factual. Politicians and media figures repeat these ideas so frequently that the general public often assumes them to be true. However, these arguments are not only unsubstantiated and inappropriate for academic discourse, they are also causing increased resentment and antagonism toward the immigrant populations. There are numerous fallacious narratives when it comes to the issue of immigration. However, some of the most grievous and widely spread are that immigrants are more violent, they are taking American jobs and damaging the economy, undocumented immigrants do not want to become legal in order to avoid paying taxes while reaping government benefits, and immigrants are currently overrunning the border. These are all arguments that somewhat porous when presented with actual research. However, they continue to be major frameworks in which students see the issue of immigration. In this paper, I explain how educators can begin to deconstruct these narratives and replace them with verifiable research and evidence.

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