

## Carnival Activity: How College Students Can Learn about the Immigrant World

By Kyle Low, Diana Ngo-Vuong, Kydah Dang

Our carnival activity is an arts and crafts project to get the participants to visually represent their views of the immigrant world, whatever that may be, and to also show appreciation for that group. Participants will make a card using paper and images from magazines or pictures we will provide. We have come up with three statements they will use to base their creations. On the cover, they will use “My view of an immigrant world is...” to make a collage using the cut out pictures and/or words. On the inside of the card, they will finish two statements in whatever fashion they choose: “Immigrant workers are important because...” and, “What I can do to make their world better is...” Participants will then share their creations with the rest of the group. We would then collect them and give them to a relevant organization so that they can share our appreciation and creations. We figure this project to take about 10 to 15 minutes.

This carnival activity will be able to appeal to one’s learning-teaching capabilities through visual representations and hands-on work. This activity will allow people to associate images with certain themes and take in the intended message more readily. It will allow one to utilize his or her creativity to pick from a variety of pictures and visual aids and structure it in a logical representation of a common theme. The activity will allow for more freedom of expression and invoke more person self-reflections and stimulate higher thought processes. The motions of cutting and pasting, choosing and pieces together pictures, as well as completing a strong statement are effective ways to

teach and learn. The message presented and learned will be stronger than that of one taught in a lecture in a traditional class setting. And working alongside others will allow for discussion and sharing of one's own creation. This is a key educational factor as well.

So the carnival idea that we thought of will cover two of the main themes. The first of which is college students in AAS classes have a responsibility to serve the community. The second one is students valuing the struggles of immigrant workers. The reason why we chose these two themes is because there isn't enough emphasis on giving back to the community and appreciating work that immigrant workers like our families or even our ancestors have contributed. We want people to share their perspectives on what an immigrant world looks like, but we also want the students or participants to think of ways to improve the relationships that we have with immigrants. We are using this visual exercise to help people envision their own creative ideas of teaching and learning Asian American studies and immigrant workers' experiences.