Push Factor Pull Factor

My name is Antonio Souza and I am from Portugal. My father came to the United States three years ago- he was one of the first people processed at Ellis Island. He has just send me an ocean liner ticket so I can join him. He wants me to go to school in the United states so that I can learn a better trade than brick-laying like him. (1895)

My name is Dom McCormack and I a potato farmer in Ireland.  This past year has been horrible for me.  Almost all of my potatoes were lost to a disease which made them turn black and rotten.  I do not have enough foot to feed my family or to sell potatoes at the markets.  My family will have to leave Ireland to find a place where I can feed my family. (1845)

My name is Fraz Hecker and I am from Germany.  I came to the U.S. in despair after we failed to create a fair government with our Revolution.  Seeing King Frederick William crowned again was bad and the army began to up rise.  I knew I had to leave.  (1848)

My name is Marcel Durand and I am from Paris, France.  I have been reading stories in the newspaper for week about how the Americans have found gold in the mountains of California.  I am to California to become rich! (1849)

My name is Chou Jing. I came to the United States from China to join my husband who has been working on the new railroads being built all over the West. I’m glad I came when I did. The US government just passed a law excluding future Chinese immigrants from coming to the country. I’m sad that we won’t be able to welcome any other friends or family here. (1881)

My name is Heinrich Braun and I am from Germany. Our leader decided that Catholics were not truly German. He passed laws that discriminated against us and took over our schools. I left for the United States, where I have found a farming town full of German Catholics. Now I can raise my children in my faith. (1871)

My name is Mattias Nilsson and I am from Sweden. I have heard that the U.S. government is giving away rich farmland to anyone who wants it. I am sick of struggling with stony soil and poor crops. My friends who have already arrived in America say that it is easy to build a good life there. I cannot wait to join them. (1862)