

Essay #1 Position Topic

A physical barrier is not one of the most effective ways of preventing illegal immigrants from entering the U.S because not only are there more than one way of crossing the border, but walls have never been successful at keeping people away. By 1993 the U.S government had officially begun building the wall, but fences had begun being built by border towns as early as the 1900's. The influx of immigrants was the main cause to build a wall that would prevent a large population to illegally reside in the U.S. Many acts were created in order to prevent more illegal immigrants from crossing over, but despite these acts' immigrants did not stop coming. Preventing the population of immigrants into the United States of America had proven to be a challenge, one that the government believed could and still can be fixed by pouring money into a wall that can divide Mexico and the U.S.

To begin, the U.S and Mexico wall is not fully built and not fully secured allowing immigrants to find the weak points and new methods to crossing over. Immigrants not only cross over the wall, but most allow their visas to expire, cross through tunnels, cross rivers, and even in some cases there are still those who manage to climb the wall. A physical barrier serves more as a means of allowing Americans to feel safe in their country than preventing immigrants from coming in. In terms of its success in keeping Immigrants away, the wall has failed to do just that. Despite the millions and billions of dollars that has been poured into the project a wall is simply just another obstacle into a better and safe place for many immigrants. According to, the *American Immigration Council*, "when barriers are erected along the border, people attempt to cross at more remote and dangerous locations," (8). Often these more dangerous locations end up creating a high death toll. Not only because these are unsafe passages, but simply because the means of crossing over and having life is more important than not risking your life reaching a

safe and better country. Many will risk their lives in an attempt to a better life and many are just as determined to find any way to cross over.

Secondly, not only is a physical barrier not one of the most effective ways of keeping illegal immigrants from crossing over, but the cost is surmountable to the success that keeping immigrants away has actually done. The United States for years has poured money into building a wall that can still be crossed from, but even then, can still not do as an efficient job as it should be doing. According to Raphael S. Cohen, “walls are delaying obstacles [...] But no historical wall has proven impregnable,” (Cohen 4). As much as the government wants to keep immigrants from crossing over, building more walls is not going to change the inflow of illegal immigrants. It might for a while slow them down, but as we have seen over and over throughout the years people will find new ways to cross over, walls will be climbs, and most importantly the death toll will rise the more obstacles are put in place forcing illegal immigrants to find more dangerous pathways to their destination.

Although there are some cases where people manage to climb over the wall, the wall is simply meant to slow down the person and allow border patrol to catch them before reaching the U.S. In recent years, boarder security has gone up and not only has boarder security been more efficient in finding illegal crossers, but now that technology is improving there are more ways of ensuring that people crossing over don’t make it. However, it is clear that even with boarder security immigrants still find a way of evading them and crossing over successfully. According to *The Heritage Foundation*, border security does nothing to help stop visa overstays. Only interior enforcement can do that,” (Inserra 15). Boarder security is another barrier that is put in place in order to prevent those who have successfully climbed the wall to successfully reach the U.S. However, as stated before a physical barrier can only do so much to prevent illegal

immigrants from crossing over, there are other methods of crossing over as well, methods that don't have as much security or obstacles in their way. A physical barrier is only as successful as the people keeping watch at all times.

Immigrants are in search of a better place, and despite all the news outlets stating that all immigrants are bad many are refugees in search of a better place. In the end, the means of a better life in another country will drive immigrants to cross over in any method possible even if it kills them. Nothing can be worse than staying in a country that is dangerous and in no means a place to raise their family safe and well cared for. So as long as the U.S is seen as a better place the rise in immigration will not stop no matter what physical barriers are put up.

Work Cited Page

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