Handout B: Graphic Organizer – Policy Research

Use the graphic organizer below to help guide your research into immigration policy proposals. Do your best to provide answers to all of the questions.

During your group’s discussion time, use the ideas of your group members to fill in any areas that may need additional information.

**Assigned Policy: DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals)**

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| **What is the central goal of this policy on immigration?** | The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program is an American immigration policy that allows certain undocumented immigrants who entered the country as minors to receive a renewable two-year period of deferred action from deportation and eligibility for a work permit. DACA does not provide a pathway to citizenship or lawful permanent residence. DACA was introduced in 2012 under the Obama administration. It rescinded the policy of indiscriminate deportation of minors and protected them from the fear of deportation and enabled them to pursue higher education and gainful employment. Due to DACA, 800,000 undocumented immigrants have received protection and have been able to take advantage of educational, economic, and career opportunities. The program is controversial as it attempts to provide limited protection to undocumented immigrants while leaving many of the issues with the U.S. immigration system unaddressed. |
| **How does this policy address the balance between national security and providing opportunity for immigrants?** | The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program seeks to provide opportunity to immigrants who came to the US as children, while also ensuring national security. The program allows for certain individuals who entered the US without legal authorization as children to be granted temporary permission to remain in the US and be exempt from deportation. It also requires individuals to pass a rigorous background check, have a clean criminal record, and meet certain other requirements in order to be considered for the program. The program is structured so that it balances the need for providing opportunity for immigrant minors with national security concerns, while still being respectful of the rule of law. |
| **What possible impacts will the policy have on national security?** | The impact of DACA on national security is a highly debated topic. Supporters of the program argue that DACA recipients are law-abiding individuals and their presence in the country contributes to the economic growth of the United States. Furthermore, DACA recipients are not eligible for federal benefits, like social security, college financial aid, or food stamps, and are required to pay federal taxes. This contributes to the strengthening of the national economy and can, in turn, improve national security. Additionally, DACA recipients are able to apply for government jobs and are able to contribute to national security and military efforts. At the same time, these individuals are also able to take advantage of educational opportunities, which can help them obtain higher paying jobs and lead to improved stability and security. Overall, the impact of DACA on national security is highly contested, and many believe that the program is not enough to promote true security in the United States. [5] However, the program is seen as a step in the right direction and provides opportunities for those in the DACA program to contribute to the country. |
| **What possible impacts will the policy have on the United States economy?** | The impact of DACA on the U.S. economy is significant. According to the largest study to date, DACA recipients contribute to the economy through a variety of ways, including higher wages, increased employment, and higher levels of entrepreneurship. DACA recipients have increased earnings, with an average wage of $36,232 and median annual earnings of $32,000. They also have a spending power of close to $20 billion. Furthermore, DACA recipients have contributed to the tax revenue of the U.S. economy, with DACA-eligible households paying $2.2 billion in taxes in 2017. This has a positive impact on the economic growth of the U.S., with a projected economic growth of nearly $300 billion if the Dream and Promise Act is passed. Overall, DACA recipients have made a positive contribution to the U.S. economy, and if the Dream and Promise Act is passed, the economic impact could be even greater. [6] This could provide a major boost to the U.S. economy, providing more jobs and more spending power. |
| **Would the policy help or prevent immigrants from eventually becoming US citizens?** | DACA does not provide a pathway to US citizenship, however, it can be a stepping stone for those who are eligible for the program. DACA provides temporary protection from deportation and the ability for individuals to obtain a work permit, obtain a driver's license, and access higher education. These benefits can help DACA recipients become more financially stable and better integrate into the US culture, making it easier for them to eventually become citizens. However, DACA does not provide a direct pathway to US citizenship. It does not provide a green card or a path to apply for a green card, and it does not make DACA recipients eligible for federal benefits or public assistance. DACA recipients are also not eligible for certain jobs that require U.S. citizenship. As such, the program does not provide an immediate path to US citizenship, but it can provide a stepping stone to those who are eligible. |
| **Would the policy help immigrants assimilate into American society? Ex. Learn English language, learn history and government, Internalize American values and beliefs** | Yes, DACA can help immigrants assimilate into American society. By providing temporary protection from deportation and the ability to apply for a work permit, access higher education, and obtain a driver's license, DACA can help immigrants become more financially stable, better integrate into the US culture, and make them more likely to assimilate into American society. Furthermore, DACA recipients can use their newfound financial stability to invest in their education, which can help them learn English, understand US history and government, and internalize American values and beliefs. DACA recipients can also take advantage of the resources available to them to learn the English language, such as ESL classes and language exchange programs. Additionally, DACA recipients can take advantage of cultural opportunities, such as attending events and learning about US culture, that can help them better assimilate into American society. |
| **What possible impacts will this policy have on the current work force in the United States?** | DACA can have positive impacts on the current US workforce. The program allows DACA recipients to work legally in the US, giving them access to higher-paying, better-quality jobs that would otherwise be unavailable to them. This can lead to increased economic activity, higher wages for US workers, and improved job satisfaction for DACA recipients, who are now able to pursue careers that are more in line with their skills and passions. Additionally, DACA recipients can bring new perspectives and ideas to the workforce, making it more diverse and innovative. Finally, DACA can help reduce the cost of labor, resulting in more affordable products and services for consumers. |

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<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/economy/making-sense/what-ending-daca-could-cost-the-u-s-economy>

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