

## Photo Essay Slides

1. Immigration has been a topic of much discussion in the recent history of the United States: it is a crucial aspect of our dynamic “American” culture by which we are both united, and define ourselves by.
2. The effects of immigration are the reason our country is so diverse, and commonly referred to as a “melting pot” of cultures. In fact, the United States holds 4 of the top 7 most cosmopolitan (or ethnically and culturally diverse) cities in the world.
3. Currently, we tend to hold a view of “diversity” as anything that differs from the majority. In other words, because whites hold a majority of the population for the entire United States, white people (in particular, European Americans) in America are often seen as inhibiting diversity, or as un-diverse.
4. Just as with Asian American, Latin American, Indian American, and every other large group of American immigrants, European American immigrant bring diverse cultures, and face many difficulties in the process of immigration.
5. In comparison to the stories about various minority immigrants, Europeans’ immigration stories to America are often overshadowed, and rarely associated with hardship. Because Americans with European descent are associated with being the more privileged and the majority race in America, people tend to believe that Europeans come from more desirable family circumstances, free of the suffering that minority groups face or have been faced with.
6. This stereotype, of course, comes with far more than a grain of truth. Throughout America’s somewhat ugly history, whites (again, in particular European Americans) have been and continue to be a race of privilege and hold a majority of the power, and it is only until recently in our country’s history that serious progress has been made toward equal rights and ending discrimination. America undoubtedly has a very ugly past, particularly atrocious in regard to Europeans’ treatment to Native Americans and Africans.
7. The danger with stereotypes of any kind, however, is that when make a broad generalizations about a group, particularly a generalization that carries noticeable truth, individuality is lost, and we tend to focus on in groups and out groups rather than on just how similar we all actually are.
8. One large wave of European immigrants that suffered great hardship, were those caught in the middle of both WW1 and WW2. A concept that is not only tough for our generation, but for Americans as a whole, is having a war fought on your own soil. Apart from our own Civil War, the United States’ participation in wars has been from afar.
9. The United States is also not connected by land to any other countries on its Eastern and Western borders

All four of my grandparents were European immigrants that did not live in the United States until they were in their twenties. Both of my mother’s parents emigrated as young adults from different areas of rural Ireland in pursuit of education opportunities

My father's parents were Polish World War II refugees who were forced to relocate from their respective hometowns in Poland to a refugee camp in Augsburg, Germany where they met.