

Immigration slowed sharply after restrictions were enacted in the 1920s, to less than 5% of the population in 1970. The removal of the citizenship question from census questions asked of all households came as the Census Bureau reduced the number of questions asked of all households and began asking more questions – including citizenship – of a sample of the population. Beginning in 1970, most people filled out their own census forms, rather than having census-takers fill out the information about them.

History of the Citizenship Question

Directions: In the space under the questions below, record possible responses.

1. What happened in 1920 which changed the policy that the citizenship status of women and children was to be automatically the same as their husbands or fathers?
2. What were the immigration restrictions? Why did they occur? Were particular groups targeted?
3. Based on the reading from yesterday and today, what are the reasons for reintroducing the citizenship question according? What do opponents of this action believe are the real reason(s)?
4. What are the possible pros and cons of reintroducing the citizenship question at this time?
5. How does the history of the citizenship question help to explain U.S. immigration policy over the last 100 years?

Suggestions for sentence/discussion starters to be used during the Think – Pair – Share activity and whole-class discussion. Feel free to add your own thoughtful starters to the list(s) below:

What I thought: _____ I thought that because...	What my partner thought: _____ S/he pointed out to me that...	What we will share: _____ We concluded that...because...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I imagine that...because... ● I hypothesize that...because... ● It seems to me that...because... ● My personal view is that... ● Based on ..., I can infer that... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● _____ emphasized that... ● _____ indicated that... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We agreed that... ● We believe that ...because... ● Our group sees it differently. We concluded that... ● Our group agreed to disagree with one another regarding...

My Name _____

My Partner's Name _____

Date _____

Period _____

Think - Pair - Share

Prompt and/or Question	What I Thought	What My Partner Thought	What We Will Share