

## ETHNICITY & IMMIGRATION PRIMER

Learn these 3 topics:

1. Know what Hispanic means. Hispanics can be of any “race.” It depends on who the Spanish mated with during their global conquest. There traditionally have been 5 races: White, Black, Asian, Native American, Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (according to the Census). Mexicans are considered a “White” race, but of Hispanic ethnicity. See Mike’s video “How to make a Mexican” and look up outside sources.
2. Everyone is counted in the U.S. Census, notwithstanding their immigration status.
3. Research shows the majority of the undocumented pay Federal Income Taxes, but do not get the benefits from it (read Weintraub!). Undocumented residents are not eligible for welfare, such as food stamps, social security, or Medicaid.

**The following is optional** (but very interesting, and can inform you for discussion forums):

Listen to Mike’s interview with Alma, a former undocumented student. Noteworthy is the Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) from the IRS, allowing undocumented workers to pay taxes (most pay taxes anyway, but this credits their account in the even they do become documented). <http://iws.collin.edu/mitashiki/media/alma.m3u>

It might be interesting to hear an immigration attorney’s perspective (which is not peer-reviewed research and may not be true).by attorney John Gibson:

“The route to legal status for people born outside the U.S. to parents who are not U.S. citizens is restricted to five narrow avenues prescribed by Congress, and they are especially narrow for aliens who do not have some kind of legal status already. Furthermore, Congress restricts the number in each category who may become legal residents each year, and further restricts the numbers from Mexico, China, Philippines, and India. For all Mexicans, except the minor children of U.S. citizens and parents of adult U.S. citizens, there are waiting periods of many years, more than 20 years for some categories. Here are the ways an alien who is in the U.S. can become a legal permanent resident:

1) An alien who has a legal status may become a permanent resident based on holding a master's degree or better, or on an offer of employment in a skilled position; a small number may become legal residents based on less skilled employment. An alien who has legal status also can buy permanent resident status by investing a minimum of \$500,000 in a "depressed" area, or \$1,000,000 in an urban area.

2) An alien who has legal status may become a permanent resident based on the petition of a family member who is in legal status: an adult U.S. citizen can petition for a child, parent, or sibling. An adult legal resident can petition for a minor child, a spouse, or an unmarried adult child.

3) An alien who has no legal status and is in deportation court can ask for "cancellation of removal" if he was in the U.S. at least 10 years before the event that landed him in the deportation court; has "good moral character," and can show that his deportation would result in "exceptional and extremely unusual hardship" to his U.S. citizen or legal resident spouse, child, or parent. "Exceptional and extremely unusual" obviously means only that it very rarely occurs, but the immigration judges interpret it to mean such horrific and brutal consequences that it is virtually impossible to prove.

4) A person who can prove he or she has a well-founded fear of persecution by a government actor or surrogate on account of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or "membership in a social group" can apply for asylum, pursuant to U.S. law and treaties. In some parts of the U.S., however, and especially in Texas, the bureaucrats who decide whether to grant asylum simply deny applications without thinking.

5) There are special provisions for spies, assassins, and the like, who are in favor with the State Department, to become citizens, but very few aliens benefit from them.

Here is a link to the State Department "Visa Bulletin," which shows the date the petitions were filed for aliens in each category who are just now being admitted. The waiting periods apply to everybody except the minor children, spouses, and parents of U.S. citizens, for whom the only wait is the year or two that it takes the bureaucrats who receive the petitions to do their job.

[http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/bulletin/bulletin\\_5733.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/bulletin/bulletin_5733.html) “

*John Wheat Gibson*