



NEW BEDFORD FISHING HERITAGE CENTER

Quick Write Activity- Families and Immigration

Activity Overview: Help students make connections between their own lived experiences and oral histories by having them do a **Quick Write** (a short, semi structured writing exercise where students are encouraged to keep their pen on the page for the full five minutes and write without editing).

Grades: This activity was created for students in middle or high school and should be adjusted accordingly.

Activity Directions:

- This activity works well as part of a lesson on immigration, local history, or oral histories. This activity focuses specifically on the audio clip titled "[Families](#)" in the "Central American Women in Seafood Processing" section of the [Changing Way of Life](#) digital exhibit.
- Say: In this section [Families] you'll hear from Central American immigrants who had to overcome many challenges on their journey to (and in) the US. I want you to take a minute to think about a time that you overcame a challenge (it could be learning a new subject, cooking a new meal, learning a new move on your skateboard, learning how to drive/ride a bike/swim, moving to a new place etc.).
- Have students write about that memory using the following prompting questions. Remind them not to worry about spelling/grammar and to keep their pen on the paper the whole time.
 - What did you struggle with?
 - What kept you going and helped you persevere?
 - What motivated you?
- If you have time you can do a share out: Start by sharing your own quick write and then have students circle a piece of their quick write to share.
- Afterwards, have students listen to the audio clip and pick out what motivated the immigrants who were interviewed by answering the same questions: What did they struggle with? What kept them going and helped them persevere? What motivated them?

Activity Created by:

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