

Ellis Island

Time: Approximately 2-3 hours, preferably on two consecutive days to allow time to set up for the simulation. Allow 5–10 extra minutes before beginning the simulation to pull aside your immigration officials and give them directions.

Materials: Signs for each station, directions for immigrant officials at each station, documents for immigrants (**all included**)

Set Up: Any area will work as long as you can arrange three desks at which lines can form. Large groups may need to set up in a library or cafeteria, but a whole class can easily perform the simulation in the classroom.

Directions: This simulation will take approximately two to three hours and is divided into two sections – the preparation phase, and the simulation. The experience is greatly enhanced by first reading about Ellis Island. Reading materials about Ellis Island are available on **abcteach.com**. You might want to try the nonfiction book *If Your Name was Changed at Ellis Island* by Ellen Levine which provides a wealth of information.

Preparation

1. Give each student a boat ticket, passport/ID, immunization record, report card, and birth certificate document form to fill out (**all forms included**)
2. Have the students fill out each document completely. Students can be creative, using different names and birthdates, etc., but all documents must match.
3. Go over directions for the simulation so that everyone knows what to expect.
4. Choose at least three “immigration officials” to help run your simulation. (One to two officials per station depending on your group size.) You may want to float or preside over the detainee area. Before you begin the simulation, be sure to review your expectations with the “officials”. The directions posted at each station are self-explanatory, but make sure they know how you want them to operate.

Simulation

1. Arrange the area with three separate stations, with a desk for each and enough room for lines to form at each desk.
2. Post the signs with immigrant and official directions at each station.
3. Set aside one area for detainees and one for those successfully immigrating.
4. Bring in your “immigrants” and divide them into lines as they enter. Your officials should take it from here.
5. Students who misbehave should be “detained” – this will keep the simulation realistic.

General Simulation Directions for Students

1. When you walk in the room, you should be in character as an immigrant.
2. Listen carefully as you enter. You will be divided up and directed to one of the three stations.
3. Remember – any immigrant behaving strangely would surely be detained.
4. The officials are the final judge. If you are wrongly detained, that will be sorted out at your detention hearing. Remember: in real life, officials sometimes make mistakes.
5. You will be graded on how successfully you immigrate, so be prepared! Make sure you have *every* document.

Ellis Island

M Immigrants:

e **d** **i** **c** **a** **l** **S** **t** **a** **t** **i** **o** **n**

Present your immunization record and ID/Passport to the official here. Follow the official's directions for what to do next.

Medical Station Official Directions

1. Make sure the name on the ID matches the name on the immunization record and the immigration card.
2. Make sure the immigrant has all of these shots:
 - Tetanus
 - Smallpox
 - Rubella
 - Hepatitis
3. Have the immigrant walk across the floor in front of the table. Detain them if they seem to have any trouble supporting themselves – even if they're joking. (Any student with a disability can still pass through this station because they have accommodations to make them mobile.)

If everything checks out:

Sign your name next to “medical inspector” on the immigration card

If there are any problems with documents or any potential health concerns:

1. write “detain” in the space next to “Medical Inspector”
2. direct the immigrant to the detention center

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Literacy Station

Immigrants:

Present your ID/Passport to the official here.
Follow the official's directions for what to do next.

Literacy Station Official Directions

1. Check the ID and make sure it matches the immigration card.
2. Give the immigrant a sentence to write or have them read a sentence aloud to you.
(Spelling and pronunciation don't count as long as you can tell what they mean.)
Students may choose any language provided for at the station. Immigrants do not have to speak English – just be literate.

If everything checks out:

Sign your name next to “literacy inspector” on the immigration card

If an immigrant cannot complete the assigned task or has problems with identification:

1. write “detain” next to “Literacy Inspector” on the immigration card
2. direct them to the detention center

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Legal Station

Immigrants:

Present your ID/Passport, birth certificate, and report card or diploma to the official. Follow the official's directions for what to do next.

Legal Station Official Directions

1. Check that the name on all three documents is the same. The name must be spelled the same on each document, and the other information must also be consistent.
2. Stamp or mark documents.
3. Sign your name next to "Legal Inspector" on the immigration card

If everything checks out:

Sign your name next to "legal inspector" on the immigration card

If there are any problems with the documents:

1. Write "detain" next to "Legal Inspector"
2. Direct the immigrant to the detention center

Ellis Island

Detention Center

Immigrants:

Complete the appeals form set out here. When you have completed the form, raise your hand and wait quietly for an official to give you a hearing. You cannot proceed to any other station until the “detained” on your card is crossed off by the judge hearing your appeal.

Detention Center Official Directions

1. Make sure each detainee thoroughly fills out the appeals form.
2. Read through the appeals form.
3. If you are convinced they have been wrongfully detained, write your signature on the immigration card next to where it says “detain”.

Immigrants must stay in the detention center if

- they don't have the documents required to pass on
- they have not convinced you in their appeal to release them
- their behavior makes it impossible for them to complete the immigration process

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DETENTION RELEASE FORM

Complete the following. Be thorough!

Immigrant Name: _____

Why have you been detained?

How do you think this should affect your ability to pass through Ellis Island
(*in other words, how should it affect your grade*)?

Why should you be allowed to continue through Ellis Island?

When you have completely answered the questions above, sit still and raise your hand. The judge (*your teacher*) will come to you for a special inquiry as quickly as possible.

Immigration Status Evaluation:

Remember: Your grade depends on you getting out of the detention center and passing through Ellis Island.

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Immigrant Name _____

Cleared to immigrate by:

Legal Inspector _____

Medical Inspector _____

Literacy Inspector _____

Inspectors: Please write “detain” rather than your name in the space if an immigrant does not meet the requirements.

Congratulations!

While you wait for the ferry to carry you to Manhattan, please write a journal entry below telling what your experience coming through Ellis Island was like. Do you think your experience was similar to immigrants 100 years ago? Why or why not?

*Please attach all of your forms, including any detention release forms, to this before turning in your work.

Ellis Island

Report Card

Name: _____

School: _____

Math: _____

Language: _____

Spelling: _____

Geography: _____

History: _____

Science: _____

Reading: _____

Report Card

Name: _____

School: _____

Math: _____

Language: _____

Spelling: _____

Geography: _____

History: _____

Science: _____

Reading: _____

Report Card

Name: _____

School: _____

Math: _____

Language: _____

Spelling: _____

Geography: _____

History: _____

Science: _____

Reading: _____

Report Card

Name: _____

School: _____

Math: _____

Language: _____

Spelling: _____

Geography: _____

History: _____

Science: _____

Reading: _____

Ellis Island

Passport

Name: _____

Date of birth: _____

Nationality: _____

Gender: _____

Occupation: _____

Passport

Name: _____

Date of birth: _____

Nationality: _____

Gender: _____

Occupation: _____

Passport

Name: _____

Date of birth: _____

Nationality: _____

Gender: _____

Occupation: _____

Passport

Name: _____

Date of birth: _____

Nationality: _____

Gender: _____

Occupation: _____

Ellis Island

Boat Ticket

Departure Date: _____

Departing From: _____

Intended Arrival Date: _____

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Boat Ticket

Departure Date: _____

Departing From: _____

Intended Arrival Date: _____

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Boat Ticket

Departure Date: _____

Departing From: _____

Intended Arrival Date: _____

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Boat Ticket

Departure Date: _____

Departing From: _____

Intended Arrival Date: _____

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Ellis Island

Certificate of Live Birth

Date_____

Country of Birth_____

City_____

Child's Name_____

Gender_____

Mother's Name_____

Father's Name_____

Doctor/Midwife Signature_____

Certificate of Live Birth

Date_____

Country of Birth_____

City_____

Child's Name_____

Gender_____

Mother's Name_____

Father's Name_____

Doctor/Midwife Signature_____

Certificate of Live Birth

Date_____

Country of Birth_____

City_____

Child's Name_____

Gender_____

Mother's Name_____

Father's Name_____

Doctor/Midwife Signature_____

Ellis Island

Immunization Record

Name: _____

Date of birth: _____

Shot Records (please put the date
immunization was received)

Rubella _____

Smallpox _____

Hepatitis B _____

Tetanus _____

Immunization Record

Name: _____

Date of birth: _____

Shot Records (please put the date
immunization was received)

Rubella _____

Smallpox _____

Hepatitis B _____

Tetanus _____

Immunization Record

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