Colossus, Raise Your Lamp: Reclaiming Our Diversity Through Immigration

Each American is part of a unique tradition that invites people from all parts of the globe to come here, seek their fortune, find happiness, and give their families a fresh start: essentially, embody the American Dream. Those who dare to come here today through legal channels face an overcomplicated, expensive process that takes years to navigate. Many take the only option they have: entering the country illegally.

As immigration takes center stage, the political climate surrounding it has become outright hostile with the election of President Trump. Building walls and removing people who are essentially law-abiding and tax-paying is not a solution for our country’s response to undocumented immigrants; generalizing them as criminals and using scare tactics to rally support for these measures is irresponsible. We need to find a solution that allows those here to become part of the culture they help build and support.

By researching academic publications, I intend to examine immigration statistics, current topics, and past and present programs affecting immigrants and their path to legal residence and citizenship. Finding a solution that provides opportunities for those seeking them, while maintaining possibilities for the current citizenry is imperative to our country’s future.