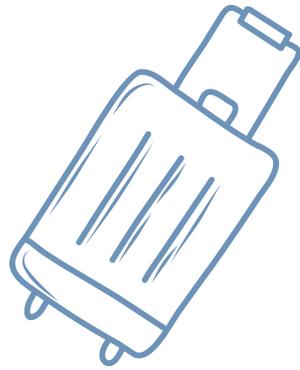




## *The essence of Immigration*



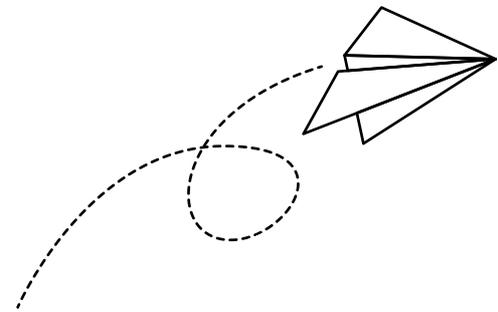
# Table of contents

The purpose of this zine is to talk about the importance and impact fo immigration.

## No .of pages



|   |
|---|
| 1. Title page                                       |
| 2. Table of contents                                |
| 3. Poem submissions                                 |
| 4. Creative submissions                             |
| 5. Research-based informational writing submissions |
| 6. contributors page                                |
| 7. Reference page                                   |



## Poems -

A World Unknown - Aftahi

A brighter future - Aaron

Fortune - Joe



# Aftahi - Poem submission

## **A world unknown**

We bring what little we have to our names,  
But bring all what we have in our hearts.

Some travel across the harsh sea,  
others through rough terrain.

We bring our culture, our religion, and our food,  
To a world unknown.

Whether we are reaching towards a new hope or away from  
despair,

We are going to one destination.

For this world barings new possibilities and challenges.

Since the old times we have worked our way from the bottom

Acknowledge now our existence and our presence,

Learn of the things we have made, done and become.

We are one.



# Joe - Poem submission



## fortune

A group of skeletons tend their fields  
Like mobs in a video game

The lord prepares for his afternoon tea  
Asking *where are my scones and butter?*

He stares at his ghostly servants with anguish  
The glare colder than the mid march frosts

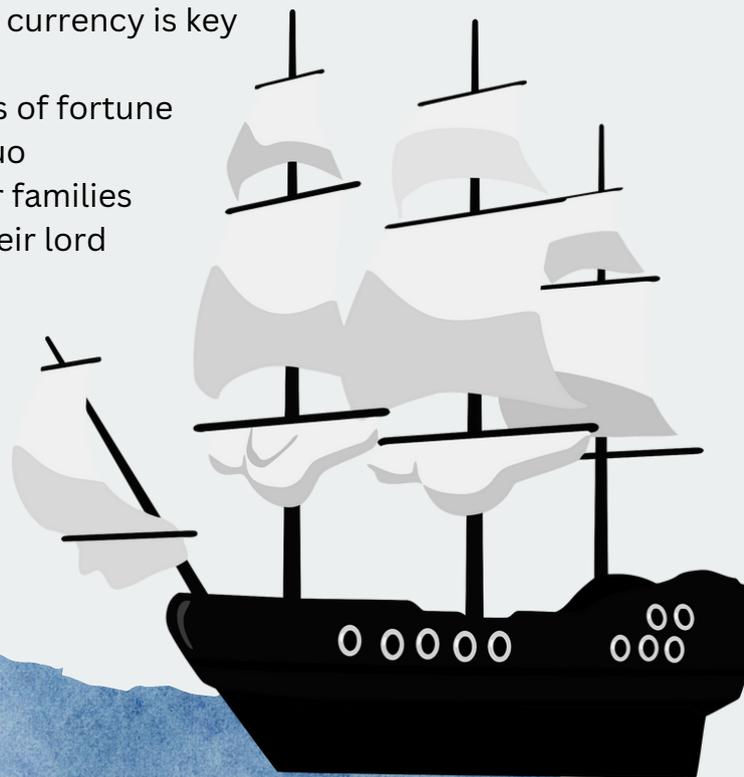
When This lord finishes his tea, he gets back to his work  
Signing paperwork for more exports of his land's gold  
Desperately needed by his army of corpses

The day is now out, and so the cycle repeats  
The new day has arrived with a few less brothers and sisters  
For they have found their promised lands

Day by day, month by month  
The greedy lord sees his minions abandon him

But alas, he doesn't mind  
For the fallacy he sees is that his currency is key

Whether they leave to be soldiers of fortune  
or maintain the measly status- quo  
They leave their homes with their families  
fore' they sing the hymns with their lord



# Aaron G. - Poem submission



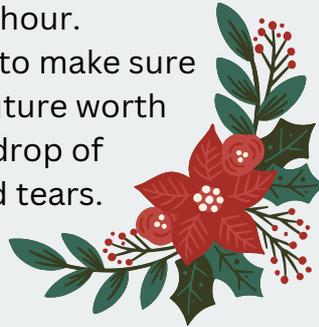
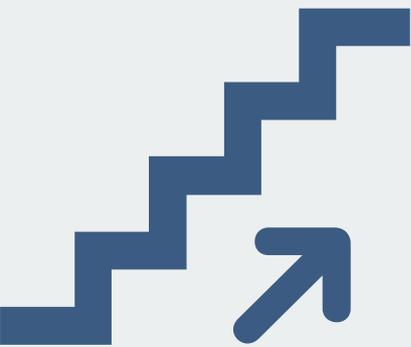
## **A Brighter Future**

By Aaron Gonzalez



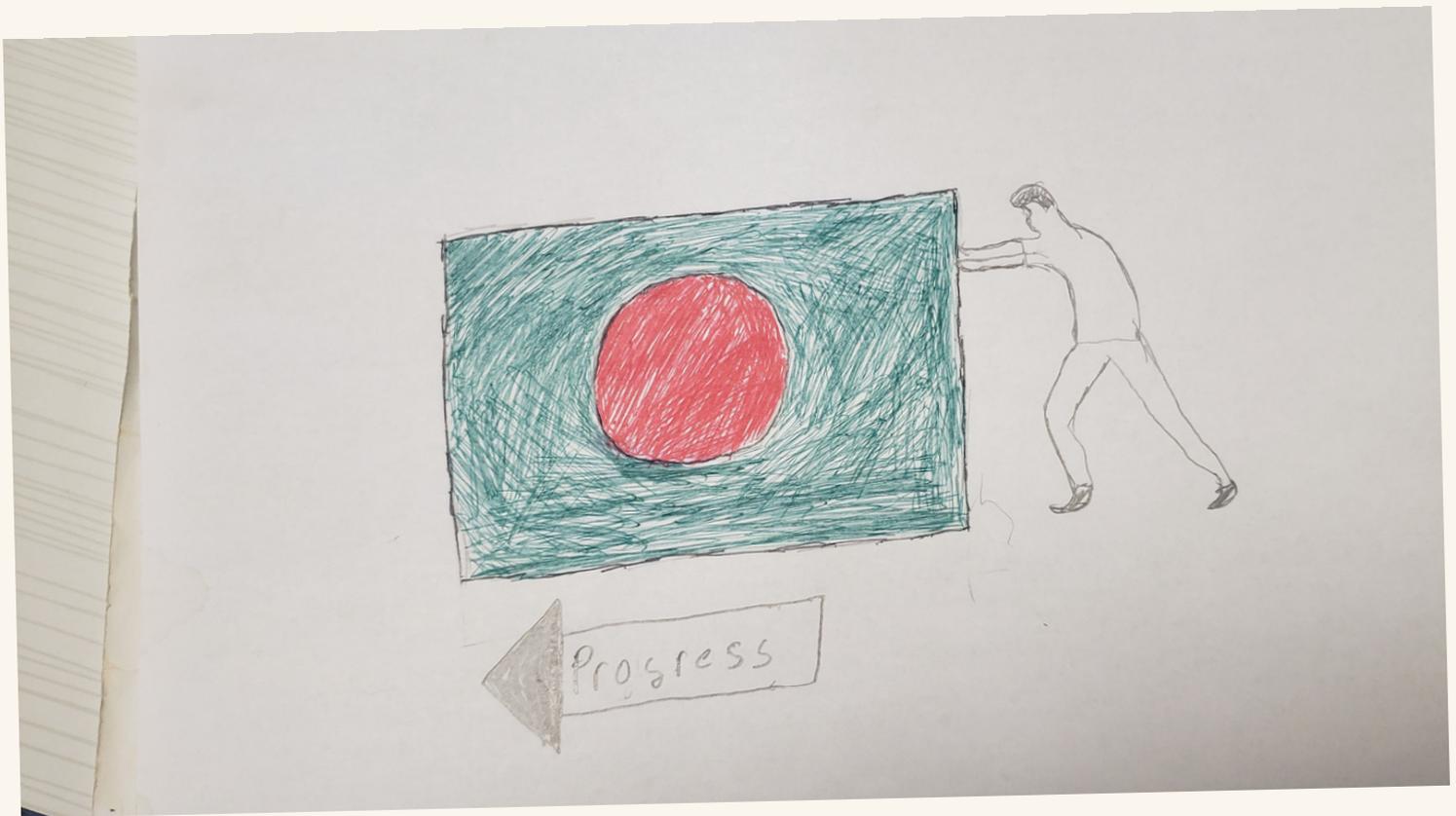
I'm fleeing from my old life  
Una vida with no future and no hope  
To a new life with a brighter future  
Hoping to help bring my family  
To a safer place and live comfortably.  
Crossing la frontera risking arrest,  
The wall that separates new opportunities  
La oportunidad to start from zero, but  
Issues occur with a language barrier  
Worst of all, my cultura.  
I was always told to go to the states,  
But no one ever told me what came,  
What came with migrating illegally.

The slurs, the racismo, the discrimination  
What was once looking for a happier  
Stable life became a nightmare  
The so-called new opportunities, falso  
I came alone, no one to depend on, nadien.  
Working for more than 8 hours just for \$84  
6 days a week, the only breaks we got  
Were for a split hour.  
But I will keep fighting, to make sure  
Mi familia will get a future worth  
Worth my every drop of  
Blood, sweat, and tears.



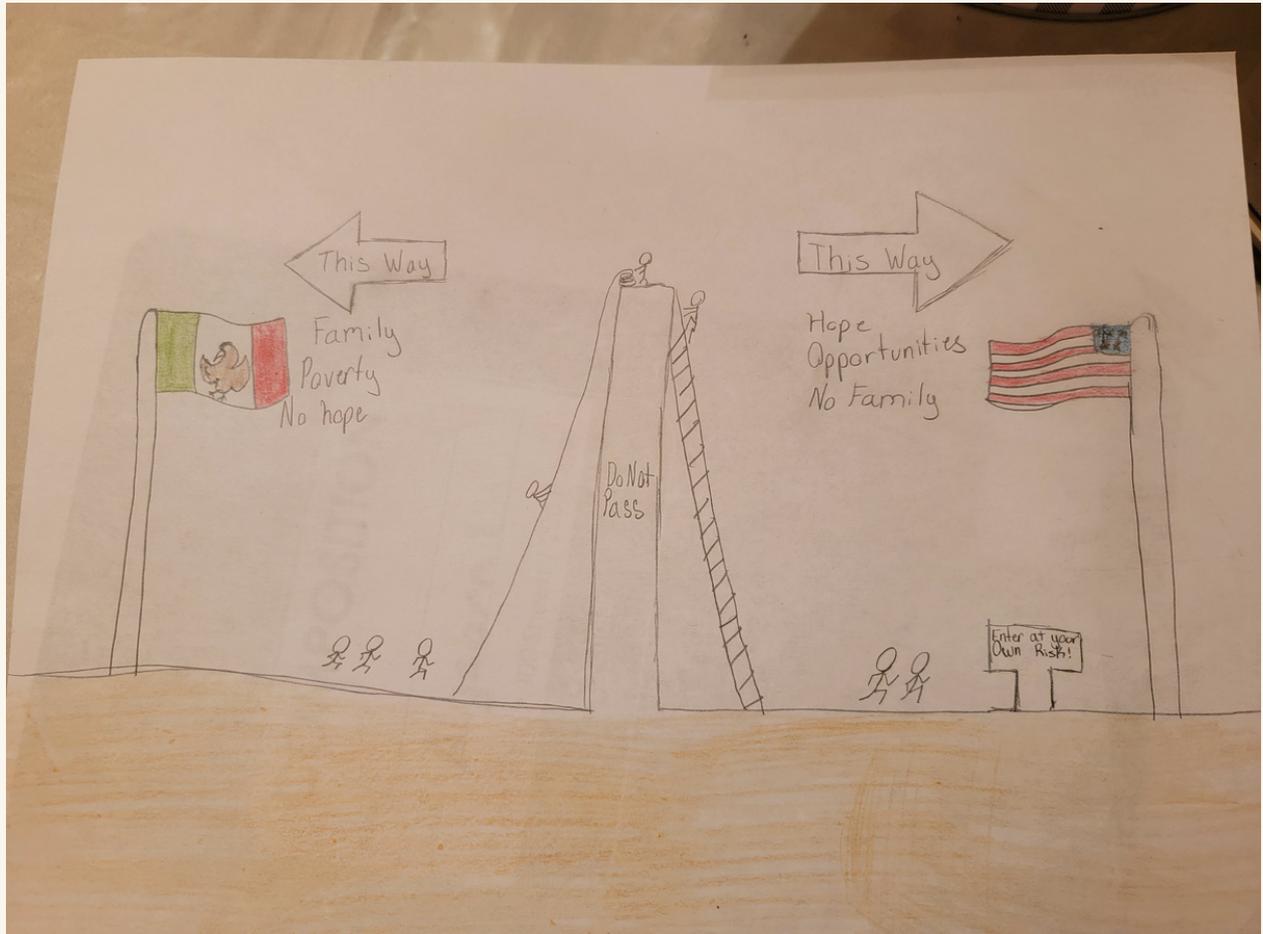
# Creative submission

Aftahi's submission:



# Creative submission

## Aaron's Submission:



# Creative submission

Joe's submission



# Aftahi - Research - based writing

I chose Abduljaleel because he is relatively new to America and he is really knowledgeable when it comes to the topic of immigration because he literally lived it.

When did you come to america?

-“I came to america on november 17 2016”

What were the cultural differences that you needed to adjust too?

-“Yes everything”

-“The behavior of different people and cultures were different from what I was used too”

-“The education system was different from our country”

Did you face any discrimination while you were living in America? What kind and when?

-“Like racism?”

-“When I first came to america I wasn't all that fluent when it came to speaking english to “I faced a lot of racisms and bullying during that time”

Did any economic factors play a role in why you immigrated?

-“For me and my family in jordan they didn't have any opportunities for jobs and education we were living a poorer life style”

What was life like for you when you first arrived?

-“The first day I arrived it looked like heaven”

“Streets are clean and they had very nice plants”

What benefits did you think of when leaving your home country and arriving in america?

-“before moving to jordan to america my outlook on america was mostly positive”

-“But I always thought learning english was going to be difficult”

What was the turning point that led you into making that decision?

-“So my parents straight away thought of better opportunity for us to have a better education and growing up in a safer environment”

What did you have to give up coming to america?

- “I had to give up a lot of my family in my home country”

# *Aaron G. - Research - based writing*

Immigration was a big thing in the United States, even before it was considered a country. It all started during the 1920s, which was the beginning of Mexican immigration.

There would arrive 50 thousand there and slowly when years went by there was an increase of 50 thousand to 100 thousand Mexican immigrants per year. A few decades pass and it's 1980, there are now 2.2 million Mexican immigrants that have settled in the United States, specifically in California, and are slowly being moved up into Illinois. A decade later, in 1990, there was almost double the amount with 4.3 million that have migrated. Another decade passes, the year 2000, and it absolutely skyrockets to just below 10 million. Another 2 million arrive by 2010 but then when we get into 2019 and it was lowered by 1 million. Deportation has a big role here and that lower population in 2019 is all due to them being deported.

Compared to other immigrants that have settled in the United States, Mexican immigrants single-handedly make up 51% of them. The vast majority are here to make a better future for themselves and their future family or even the family they brought here. Though recently they have been put under the category of drug dealers and just bad people in general. Even after taking the jobs, most people don't even want to do it and still get badly named and also put under that same category. Even going as far as being considered dangerous people just because we're misunderstood. With that problem just adding into other ones as being considered someone who basically doesn't exist just because they're missing numbers under their name.

# Joe - Research - based writing

Immigration in the US has been happening constantly since before it was officially a country. Settlers began inhabiting British- controlled colonies from their founding in 1607, with the floodgates never closing. After the country's founding in 1776, there was a constant trickle of people immigrating to the us from all over the world, mostly europe, with droves of Irish and Chinese immigrant workers coming during the westward expansion, civil war, and the building of the transcontinental railroad starting in the 1840's to escape poverty and famine. Large groups of Italian immigrants would soon follow in the 1880's to escape poverty like their Chinese counterparts began doing some 40 years earlier. They would go on to participate in the construction of the aforementioned transcontinental railroad, as well as the california gold rush and even because entrepreneurs.

Throughout its history, the United States has been viewed as a place to find fortune. Irish immigrants that came to the US in the initial waves in the 1840's-1860's came to escape the great famine that plagued Ireland from 1845-1852. Because of this desperation, they took virtually any job they could, from digging ditches for canals to serving in the army, they did pretty much any job they could find. In the time of prohibition, many of these former italian and irish immigrants' descendants became powerful gangsters as part of the mafia(Italian mob) and westies(Irish mob) organizations, dominating cities like New York , Chicago, and Philadelphia in the 1920's.

In the modern day, Most immigrants come seeking fortune from south america and mexico, as well as seeking asylum from wars and terrorism in the middle east. In conclusion, Immigration has happened since the inception of the United States, and will happen after the country is gone because the prosperous land will always be there.

# Contribution

## Aftahi -

I immigrated to America when I was 4 years old and from there I went through a good amount of struggles not being familiar with my surroundings. I had to adjust a lot. It was only until later in my life that I knew what being an immigrant really meant.

## Joseph Kane-

While I specifically am not an immigrant, my family is. Both of my parents are descendants of Irish immigrants that left for America throughout the late 1800s and early 1900s to seek asylum.

## Aaron G. -

I was born in the United States but I was born to two migrant parents coming to the United States, seeking a better future for themselves, me, and my brothers. My dad came here when he was 17 years old while my mom got here 3 years later when she was 20. They were the same age when they met.



# Artist-statement

## Aftahi

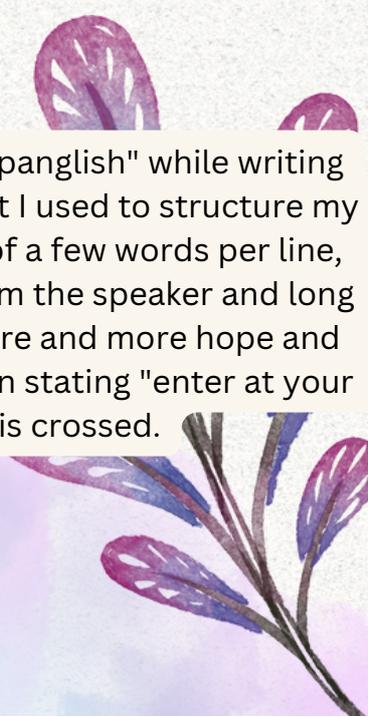
the creative aspect of the zine helps convey our message thoughtfully through our design of the pages and our three different implementations of our work. So for the poem aspect of the project I tried to imitate Joy Harjo's poetic style, when it comes to her use of imagery and the overall feeling of the poem. I tried my best to come close to the initial parts of her writing style that really stuck out to me. For the creative portion of my project I drew a person pushing the Bangladeshi flag in the direction of progress. This image is to show how immigration increases the amount of progress foreign countries receive. From personal experience and from friends and families I know people immigrate to America for better education then later on move back into their home country.

## Joe

The main way I was creative in conveying our zine's purpose was through the incorporation of the historical aspect of mass immigration into the US. The poet I based my poem on was Ocean Vuong, and I incorporated his style of metaphors and parts of his poem structure into my own. My creative submission was a drawing of a coffin ship landing at port for Irish immigrants to become US citizens so they could escape the Great Famine (1845-1852).

## Aaron G.

The way I conveyed our zine's purpose in a creative way was to make use of "Spanglish" while writing my poem on Mexican immigration in the United States. The poet and poem that I used to structure my poem was Joy Harjo's Fire poem. The way I did this was to use the advantage of a few words per line, giving it a first-person perspective on the topic as if it were coming directly from the speaker and long two stanzas. My art represents abandoning family for the sake of a better future and more hope and opportunities, while having a wall in between to represent the border and a sign stating "enter at your own risk!" signifying that it's dangerous and risking arrest if the line is crossed.



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