Close your eyes for a second, picture your most beloved family member, your father, mother, sister, or grandmother. Imagine them as they are, all their perfections and imperfections, their smile that shines like the sun. Now can you picture a life without them? The pain and agony we not dare think of if we were to lose them. Life would forever change if we were denied the right to see our loved ones. How can someone endure that pain you might ask. Families are being torn apart, children are being left without a mother or a father. Immigration has been an issue that has been talked about for hundreds of years and we as a nation have yet to come up with a solution. An important issue when it comes to immigration is the affect it has on the economy. Experts and analysts of the immigration policy speak on the matter by providing insight on how immigrants positively affect the economy on an article titled “Legalization of Unauthorized Immigrants Would Benefit the US Economy.” We are creating problems where don't need to, many families are suffering at the hands of the immigration policies set by the U.S. Recent studies show that 5,100 U.S. children in 22 states have lost parents to deportation, according to the Applied Research Center -- a 30-year-old racial justice think tank. About 15,000 more face similar threat in the next five years. How can we permit such a system that deprives the youth of the right to share their coexistence with their close relatives. Another study shows that of the roughly 11 million people in the country illegally, some 33 percent -- 3.3 million people -- live
with at least one child who is an American citizen, according to the Migration Policy Institute, a nonpartisan group. In discussions of immigration, one important issue, according to Cynthia Denise Rodriguez, in an article titled “The Effects of Deportation on the Family” is that the children left behind from the sudden repatriation of their parents are significantly affected and are left with long term problems. When immigration comes to mind we think of “criminal” and the overpopulation of immigrants in the United States; but we fail to think of the kids, the students. What happens to them, where do they end up? How would you react if it was your mother or father that was taken from you? What if you were to be separated from your children? As a society we should make ourselves aware of the devastating outcomes that come from tearing these families apart, we need to raise awareness and take action to support our fellow classmates, neighbors, and friends.

In addition, on average 17 children are placed in state care each day as a result of the detention and removal of immigrant parents, according to ICE. Many families of various races and religions are being traumatized, with the idea of fearing for their wellness and structure. Removing a loved one is like removing a piece from their hearts. Studies show that kids left without either parent or without both may cause depression, problems with school, and other long term complications. We can not jeopardize an entire generation, the innocent does not deserve to be punished. When ICE removes parents and loved ones, they completely neglect the kids left behind, they don't care what happens to them or where they end up. If a child is left with no parent or guardian then they are left at the hands of social services. Immediately they are put into the foster care system, they now become a piece of paper shoved into the back of a file cabinet. How can foster care handle the increase in kids? When it comes to the topic of foster
care, expert Chris Chmielewski shares great information on the impact of children being forced into foster care after their parents have been detained. In an article, “Exploring the Ins and Outs of Deportation and Foster Care” Chris states, “To the novice, foster care is ill prepared for an influx of children. Foster care has its own problems. Lack of funding. Lack of foster parents. Lack of case workers. Lack of housing of any kind. Where will we put all the children. In any given year there are 400,000 to 450,000 kids in care. How would the system handle more kids?” Leaving more and more kids at the hands of the foster care system will be a complete disaster. We can avoid this issue by simply not separating families. Few are lucky, they are fortunate enough to end up with a family member or loved one, but most don't have that fortune. Even so, their lives change forever. It has been hard to track the number of children who are put into the foster care because of the repatriation of their parents. Even then, hundreds are being left at the hands of the government. Everyone should have the opportunity to pursue their dreams and live a happy and just life. We should not be making the lives of others harder just because the color of their skin. We must comprehend that the families come to the United States to make a living and provide a good life for their children. Those who do not cause harm to society should be allowed to fulfill their promises to their children and loved ones back home.

On the other hand, there are many people who are strongly against illegal immigration and would like nothing more but to send everyone who has came illegally back to their birthplace. Many argue that having undocumented immigrants in the United States affects the economy and the tax payers money. Ian Smith is an attorney in Washington, DC who believes that providing “amnesty” would prove more costly. In an article he wrote, “Yes, Amnesty Encourages More Illegal Immigration” he said, “By demonstrating that amnesty is more
expensive than deportations (and far more expensive than self-deportation), we hope to confirm that the "limited resources" excuse for not enforcing our immigration laws is 100 percent false.”

A mere speculation that can be quickly falsified. Marshall Fitz, director of immigration policy at the Center of American Progress wrote an article titled “Legalization of Unauthorized Immigrants Would Benefit the US Economy” where he stated, “Despite reports to the contrary, immigrants are a net positive for the economy and pay more into the system than they take out. Legal immigrants will expand the gross domestic product (GDP) and add to the tax base. Such economic contributions will help keep Social Security solvent. Studies that purport to show that immigrants are a drain on the economy contain faulty research methods.” He went on to speak of the benefits that come with providing citizenship for undocumented immigrants. I agree with his viewpoint because it provides an opportunity to those who have been here with a clean record and have children who were born here to make an actual living while helping the economy. Still, those against will deny the evidence and say illegal immigrants are costing taxpayer money and taking our economy. Research and studies show quite the contrary. Immigrants pay a significant amount of money in taxes each year. A 2011 study by the Institute for Taxation and Economic Policy found that undocumented immigrants paid $11.2 billion in state and local taxes in 2010 alone, adding a significant amount of money to help state and local finances. It is important to note that immigrants—even legal immigrants—are barred from most social services, meaning that they pay to support benefits they cannot receive.

In addition to my research, I myself have experienced the pain of losing someone you love to this unjust system. Growing up was tough as we faced many obstacles, life never came at us easy. When I was in the fifth grade my dad was deported back to his homeland, Guatemala. It
would be two years before I saw him again. Seeing my father go was like watching mountains set ablaze, staring in awe at the truth that we can't believe or chose not to believe. No child should be raised in such an environment. Either parent plays an important role in the growth and development of kids. Now I notice that when my father was away I would be depressed and ask my mother when he would be coming home. A tough question to answer when it’s asked by a sad nine year old. Even if both parents don’t speak English well enough to help their kids with homework or their studies, their moral support is all that is needed. I can still picture my mom today trying to help my brother with his homework, my brother being stubborn as always, and my mother being the persistent and caring woman she was. She never gave up, she never rested, and most importantly she always believed in us. That's the kind of support and care we need from our parents. We need them by our sides, there with us every step of the way. Through this research, I have opened my eyes wider to the problem at hand, more and more people should be aware of the devastating repercussions there are when we deport parents of children and young teens. I took an interest on the topic of immigration not because I am Hispanic but because it is a sensitive topic that more people need to be made aware of. From a moral point of view, I don't think it is right that hundreds of kids are left without parents. Looking through the sources and statistics that I found throughout my research made me upset. I was astounded that this is not a major topic that is being addressed across the country. I’m not just talking about immigration in itself, but about the kids that are affected by the repatriation of the parents. We seem to forget whose lives we are affecting, the lives are more important and outweigh the lives of many. The younger generation is our future, we need to put aside our egos and think of them. After all, we
are the land of opportunity are we not? The land of the free and the home of the brave, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

In summary, we need to find a solution in order to keep families together and not allow the separation of children and their loved ones. We must come together in order to support the oppressed, give a voice to those who can't speak, stand together and unite against this and many more issues that hold us back as human beings. Looking at the topic through a theoretical framework, I believe that the facts are there and we should not neglect them. In fact we need to raise awareness of the issue and inform others on the topic so we can make a stand. A stand for peace, love, and education. Socially, immigration is a topic that is looked down upon, some decide not to speak because of fear of being ridiculed by friends or social media. People are quick to think of all the negative and horrible things that can occur, but like many they don't do their research. Providing citizenship to immigrants will increase the economy and help the country grow. They don't stop and think of the youth, they are losing the most in this constant battle. Children are without a voice and we need to give them one. Politically, many politicians and presidents always promise to pave a way to citizenship for immigrants but never fulfill or accomplish much. Others attack the issue as if it were an abomination, Donald Trump for instance, how can someone who is president can ridicule an entire race and generalize them as “criminals” and “rapists.” Reform needs to happen, it will happen, but how much do we have to lose in order to see what the right thing to do is. When will we realize that we can live with one another in peace, working side by side, providing for our families. Is it so hard to think that people of different color and ethnicity can attend the same school? Or even hold a prestigious title. We are all equal, made of flesh and bones put here on this earth to do great things, not limit
our own human race. We can not allow ourselves to put boundaries on others. Nevertheless we
will keep fighting, pushing forward, and continuing to strive because that's why our parents
brought us here. To become what they couldn't, to be what we desire to be, weather we are black,
 asian, hispanic, or mexican, we will pursue our dreams and make our parents proud.
Works Cited


