*U.S History (Gr. 11) New West Charter Instructor: Ms. Hynes*

**Ellis Island Simulation – Role 1**

**Your Role:** Examining Physician

As the Examining Physician, it is your job to make sure that no new immigrants are carrying any infectious diseases or conditions, and to make sure that all men and women aged 16 – 45 are capable of working. You have the power to order that any immigrant be sent back to their port of origin at the shipping company’s expense. If you detect any evidence of infectious disease or condition, you may order the temporary quarantine and treatment for any immigrant, ranging in duration from a few hours to six months.

You are looking specifically for signs of:

* Fungal or parasitic infections like ringworm (check scalps, eyebrows, and under fingernails)
* Evidence of chronic eye infections (like trachoma; check for redness and swelling in and around the eye)
* Evidence of chronic disability which might prevent the immigrant from working (ask them to walk, turn, sit, stand, raise their arms, etc.)
* Abnormal or weak heartbeat which might indicate a chronic health condition
* Evidence of tuberculosis (use your stethoscope and ask the patient to breathe; listen for any wheezing, rattling, or obvious difficulty breathing)

**NOTES:**

You are expected to examine steerage passengers more closely than first, or second-class passengers. The rationale is that first and second-class passengers will be wealthier and thus, will likely have had a better quality of life. They are therefore likely to have fewer health problems. Steerage passengers will likely come from the poorer, working class and will thus have been exposed to a poorer quality of life, making them more at risk for disease. Additionally, the conditions in steerage on a ship are not as good, or as private. Therefore, steerage passengers were more likely to have caught an infection from a fellow passenger than their first or second-class counterparts were, since they were quartered in private cabins.

Once you are satisfied that a passenger passes health inspection, you may send them on to be interviewed by the immigration inspectors.

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**Ellis Island Simulation – Role 2**

**Your Role:** Immigration Inspector

As an Immigration Inspector, it is your job to make sure that each immigrant is eligible for entry to the United States. If an immigrant doesn’t meet all criteria, is judged dangerous, mentally incompetent, incapable of working, or likely to be a burden to society, you have the power to send them back to their port of origin at the shipping company’s expense.

You have been instructed not to admit anyone who:

* Has ever been convicted of a felony (violent crime such as murder, rape, robbery, burglary, or arson)
* Is effectively illiterate
* Is mentally incompetent (unable to pass a visual examination – you will be provided with two tests. Immigrants should be able to successfully pass both.)
* Has no money or insufficient money to take care of themselves until they get a job (less than $25 cash)
* Has no work experience or job skills
* Provides answers during the interview that are different from the answers they provided during their interviews with the shipping agents (you will have a copy of each immigrant’s previous interview)

**NOTES:**

As an immigration inspector, you have tremendous power. You care about doing your job well and you understand that you have a heavy responsibility for making sure that you admit people who can work and won’t be a danger to society or a drain on resources. However, you are also conscious of how much harm you could potentially do by denying an immigrant entrance, putting them in quarantine, or sending them back to their port of origin. It is likely that you are an immigrant yourself (between one third and one half of inspectors at Ellis Island were immigrants who spoke two or three languages), and so you might choose to overlook some minor issues.

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**Ellis Island Simulation – Role 3**

**Your Role:** Immigrant family

You are a Jewish family from Russia. You have fled religious persecution and have been sponsored by a cousin in Chicago whom you are going into business with. Your cousin will shelter your family and provide employment for you in his grocery store until you’ve saved enough money to rent or purchase your own home.

You and your family passed the medical exam and the preliminary immigration interview in Liverpool, England before you left for the United States. However, because you only had a small amount of money for travel expenses, you and your family had to travel in steerage. You are worried that they will decide to quarantine one of more members of your family because at least two steerage passengers you were travelling with have already been quarantined for suspicion of tuberculosis. Still, you must try to stay calm, so you can pass your health inspection and final immigration interview. Below is a copy of the first immigration interview you gave back in Liverpool. Make sure that you answer the questions in your second interview the same way you did in your first interview. If your answers are consistently different, you might be denied entry to the U.S.

Travel Designation: **Steerage**

Name: **David and Tanya Dorfman**

Age: **29 and 24**

Married/Single? **Married**

Occupation? **Tradesman**

Literate: **Yes**

Country of Origin: **Russia**

Name and address of a relative from my native country: **Karl Dorfman (father), St. Petersburg, Russia.**

Final U.S. destination: **Chicago, Illinois**

Passage paid by: **Passengers**

Cash on hand: **$37.00 USD**

American sponsor or relative: **Leonid Dorfman, Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.**

Previously imprisoned or institutionalized? **No**

Polygamist, anarchist, or other radical affiliation? **No.**

Seeking employment in the U.S.? **Yes.**

Employment already secured? **Yes.**

Any health problems? **No.**

Any chronic disabilities? **No.**

Any identifying marks (scars, birthmarks, tattoos)? **No.**

You and your family will also be applying for permanent residency, and eventually citizenship. You know you will be questioned about American institutions, history, and civics. Make sure that you and your family are ready to answer the following questions:

**Who was the first President of the United States?**

**What are the colors on our flag?**

**How many stars are on our flag?**

**Why is the 4th of July special to Americans?**

**What is the Constitution?**

**What are the three branches of the American government?**

**Which President freed the slaves?**

**Can you name the original 13 colonies?**

**What is America’s national anthem called?**

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**Ellis Island Simulation – Role 4**

**Your Role:** Immigrant family

You are a Catholic family from Ireland. You have fled religious and political persecution in Ireland and have come to America in search of a better life. You have a cousin in Brooklyn who owns a combination pub and hotel and will shelter your family and provide employment for you until you’ve saved enough money to rent or purchase your own home and start your own business.

You and your family passed the medical exam and the preliminary immigration interview in Liverpool, England before you left for the United States. However, because you only had a small amount of money for travel expenses, you and your family had to travel in steerage. You are worried that they will decide to quarantine one of more members of your family because at least two steerage passengers you were travelling with have already been quarantined for suspicion of tuberculosis. You are also worried that they might decide that you are not literate enough or that you are mentally incompetent. This is because you have heard that Americans are prejudiced towards both Catholics and the Irish. Still, you must try to stay calm, so you can pass your health inspection and final immigration interview. Below is a copy of the first immigration interview you gave back in Liverpool. Make sure that you answer the questions in your second interview the same way you did in your first interview. If your answers are consistently different, you might be denied entry to the U.S.

Travel Designation: **Steerage**

Name: **Liam, Patricia, and Callum O’Neil**

Age: **34, 29, 9**

Married/Single? **Married.**

Occupation? **Publican.**

Literate: **Yes.**

Country of Origin: **Ireland.**

Name and address of a relative from my native country: **Gerald O’Neil (Grandfather), Galway, Ireland.**

Final U.S. destination: **Brooklyn, New York.**

Passage paid by: **U.S. sponsor.**

Cash on hand: **$25 USD**

American sponsor or relative: **Daniel O’Neil, Brooklyn, New York.**

Previously imprisoned or institutionalized? **No.**

Polygamist, anarchist, or other radical affiliation? **No.**

Seeking employment in the U.S.? **Yes.**

Employment already secured? **Yes.**

Any health problems? **No.**

Any chronic disabilities? **No.**

Any identifying marks (scars, birthmarks, tattoos)? **No.**

You and your family will also be applying for permanent residency, and eventually citizenship. You know you will be questioned about American institutions, history, and civics. Make sure that you and your family are ready to answer the following questions:

**Who was the first President of the United States?**

**What are the colors on our flag?**

**How many stars are on our flag?**

**Why is the 4th of July special to Americans?**

**What is the Constitution?**

**What are the three branches of the American government?**

**Which President freed the slaves?**

**Can you name the original 13 colonies?**

**What is America’s national anthem called?**

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**Ellis Island Simulation – Role 5**

**Your Role:** Bird of Passage (or, temporary immigrant on a work visa)

You are an Italian Catholic coming to America for a job, and to send money home to your family. You do not plan to stay in the country and therefore you don’t anticipate too many issues getting through immigration. You have a job waiting for you, but you also have money enough to survive in New York for a few weeks even if you don’t start work right away. You are pretty sure that you won’t have any problems getting through immigration, but you are still nervous. At least two steerage passengers on your ship were detained for suspicion of tuberculosis, and therefore you’re worried about being quarantined. Additionally, you told the immigration officer in Liverpool that you could read and write, but you can’t in fact. You just hope that they won’t give you a literacy test at Ellis Island. Finally, you are nervous because you have heard that many Americans are prejudiced towards Italians and Catholics. You hope that this won’t affect your immigration process.

**Travel Designation:** Steerage

Name: **Paolo Bruno.**

Age: **23.**

Married/Single? **Single.**

Occupation? **Construction worker.**

Literate? **Yes.**

Country of Origin: **Italy**

Name and address of a relative from my native country: **Giovanni Bruno (father), Naples, Italy.**

Final U.S. destination: **New York City**

Passage paid by: **Employer**

Cash on hand: **$25.00 USD**

American sponsor or relative: **Giuseppe Felice, Owner: Imperial Builders, New York.**

Previously imprisoned or institutionalized? **No**

Polygamist, anarchist, or other radical affiliation? **No.**

Seeking employment in the U.S.? **Yes.**

Employment already secured? **Yes.**

Any health problems? **No.**

Any chronic disabilities? **No.**

Any identifying marks (scars, birthmarks, tattoos)? **No.**

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**Ellis Island Simulation – Role 6**

**Your Role:** Immigrant family

You are a Lutheran Protestant family from Germany, and you’ve come to America to start a business and to seek citizenship. Your family has owned a brewery in Hamburg, Germany for three generations. The expansion of the American beer industry in the last few years is very promising for you. Most of the American breweries lack expertise in beer making and therefore you anticipate that you and your family will soon be very prosperous. You come from a wealthy family, are well educated, speak English fairly well, and are in good health. Therefore, you do not anticipate many problems getting through immigration.

Travel Designation: **First Class**

Name: **Rainer and Eva Hartheim**

Age: **36, 32**

Married/Single? **Married.**

Occupation? **Brewer.**

Literate: **Yes.**

Country of Origin: **Germany.**

Name and address of a relative from my native country: **Karl Hartheim, Hamburg, Germany.**

Final U.S. destination: **Milwaukee, Wisconsin.**

Passage paid by: **Passengers.**

Cash on hand: **$500 USD**

American sponsor or relative: **None.**

Previously imprisoned or institutionalized? **No.**

Polygamist, anarchist, or other radical affiliation? **No.**

Seeking employment in the U.S.? **No.**

Employment already secured? **No, business loan already secured through a Milwaukee Bank.**

Any health problems? **No.**

Any chronic disabilities? **No.**

Any identifying marks (scars, birthmarks, tattoos)? **No.**

You and your family will also be applying for permanent residency, and eventually citizenship. You know you will be questioned about American institutions, history, and civics. Make sure that you and your family are ready to answer the following questions:

**Who was the first President of the United States?**

**What are the colors on our flag?**

**How many stars are on our flag?**

**Why is the 4th of July special to Americans?**

**What is the Constitution?**

**What are the three branches of the American government?**

**Which President freed the slaves?**

**Can you name the original 13 colonies?**

**What is America’s national anthem called?**

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**Ellis Island Simulation – Role 7**

**Your Role:** Immigrant family

You are an Anglican Protestant family from England. Both the father and mother in your family have come to America with their children to seek citizenship and to work as teachers. The father in your family has already secured a job as an English professor at Princeton. The mother in your family is planning to seek a local teaching position in New Jersey as well. You are a fairly wealthy family, are well educated, and are in good health. Therefore, you do not anticipate many problems getting through immigration.

Travel Designation: **First Class**

Name: **James and Eliza Adler**

Age: **31 and 29**

Married/Single? **Married.**

Occupation? **English Professor**

Literate: **Yes.**

Country of Origin: **England.**

Name and address of a relative from my native country: **James Adler, Sr. (father), Suffolk, England.**

Final U.S. destination: **Princeton, New Jersey.**

Passage paid by: **Passengers.**

Cash on hand: **$350 USD**

American sponsor or relative: **None.**

Previously imprisoned or institutionalized? **No.**

Polygamist, anarchist, or other radical affiliation? **No.**

Seeking employment in the U.S.? **Yes.**

Employment already secured? **Yes.**

Any health problems? **No.**

Any chronic disabilities? **No.**

Any identifying marks (scars, birthmarks, tattoos)? **No.**

You and your family will also be applying for permanent residency, and eventually citizenship. You know you will be questioned about American institutions, history, and civics. Make sure that you and your family are ready to answer the following questions:

**Who was the first President of the United States?**

**What are the colors on our flag?**

**How many stars are on our flag?**

**Why is the 4th of July special to Americans?**

**What is the Constitution?**

**What are the three branches of the American government?**

**Which President freed the slaves?**

**Can you name the original 13 colonies?**

**What is America’s national anthem called?**