Ellis Island

Post-visit Activity: Teacher-led Quick Write

Objectives:

At the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Discuss the feelings immigrants encountered as they traveled to the United States
- Summarize the story about immigrant processing at Ellis Island
- Reflect on the Ellis Island experience

Procedure:

1. After attending the ICC Ellis Island simulation and/or listening to the primary Oral History Collection from the Oral History Enrichment activity, have students write a postcard to their European families back home. Use three to five sentences describing their experience at Ellis Island.

2. Ask students to use the pre-visit vocabulary in their “Quick Write”:

   Ellis Island                                               political system
   immigrant                                               persecute
   port city                                                  subsistence agriculture
   steerage                                                 industrialization
   manifest                                                 social
   currency                                                economic
   famine

3. To make it more authentic, enlarge the historic postcard (from Ellis Island’s museum collection) and add the handwritten message. A printable example of the post card is on the next page.