

MigrantVoices D.C.



Use this Reflection Journal to record your thoughts and reflections as you progress through the MigrantVoices D.C. training course.

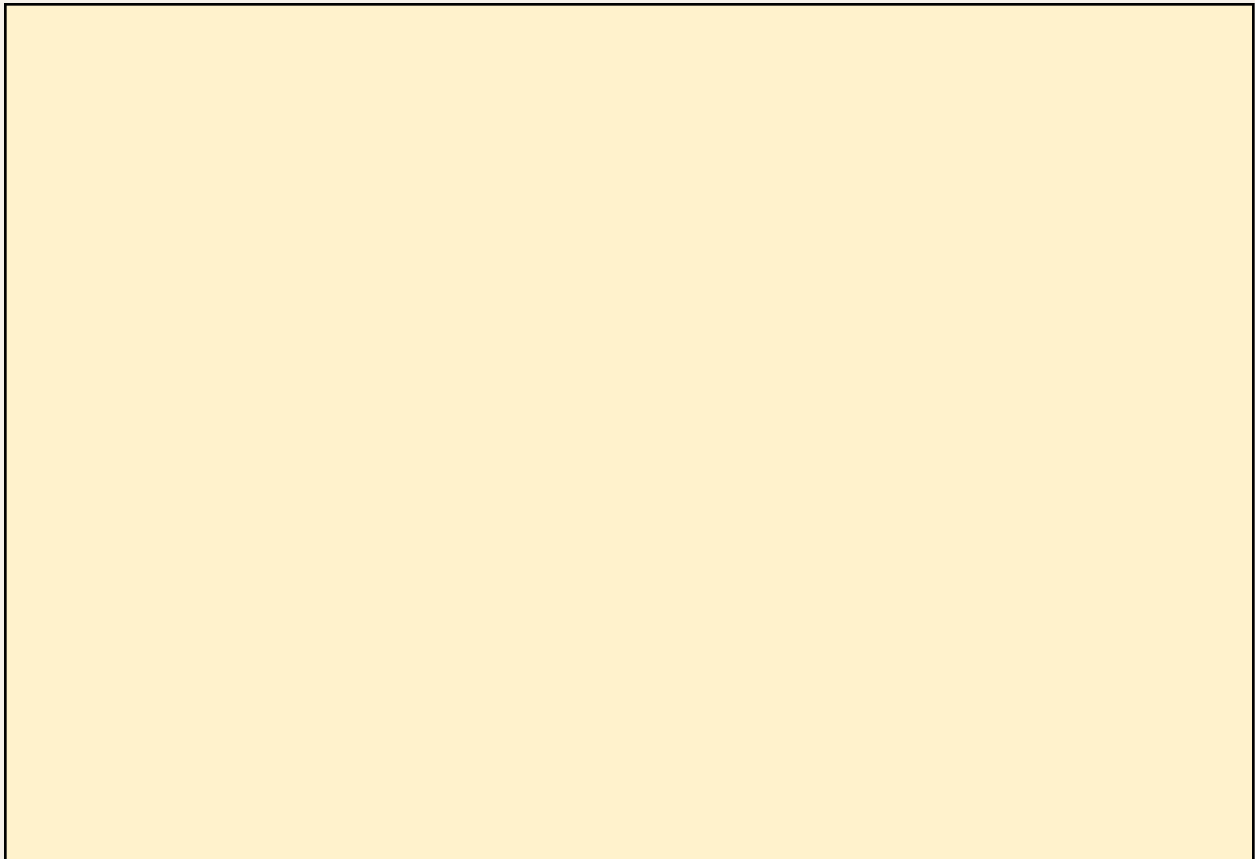
Introduction

Tips for Meaningful Reflection

- Have a notebook or piece of paper closely as you complete the training. In each lesson, take note of questions that come up, information that surprises or sticks out to you, and your key takeaways.
- Set aside at least a few minutes to journal or think openly about each reflection question.
- Every question will not resonate with you equally. It is okay to spend more time on some questions than others. Some questions will stimulate more reflection for you personally.
- There is no “right way” to reflect nor a “right answer.” The best reflections are done when you make connections between what you’re learning to your previous experiences or knowledge.

To begin, take a moment to write down your goals for this training. What do you already know about Latin American migration? What do you hope to learn?

Notes:

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for taking notes. The box is light yellow and occupies the lower half of the page.

Module 1, Lesson 1: Historical Underpinnings

Notes:



Reflection:

- Why is it important for advocates and policy makers to recognize and understand these historical legacies?
- What role does the United States play in creating the current condition of Latin American societies and economies?
- Given that role, what is the U.S.' responsibility to respond to the migration that happens as a result of these historical processes?



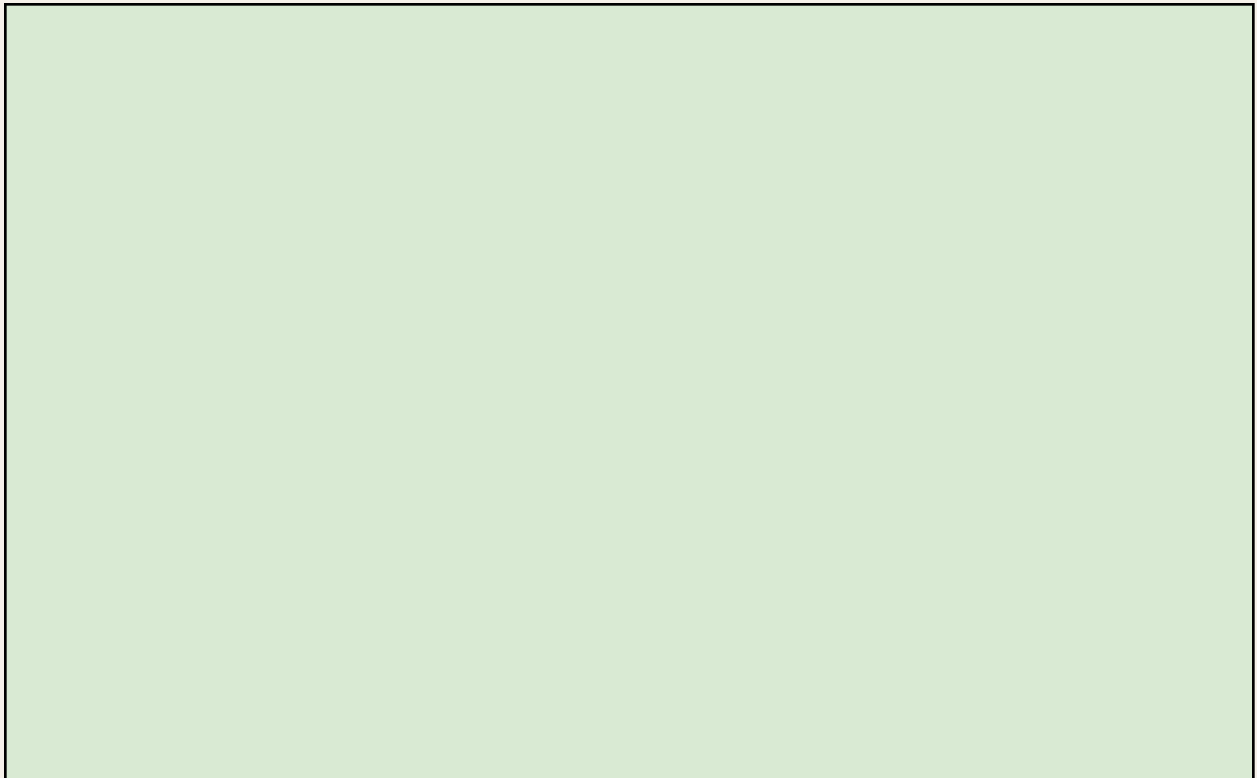
Module 1, Lesson 2: Persistent Push Factors

Notes:



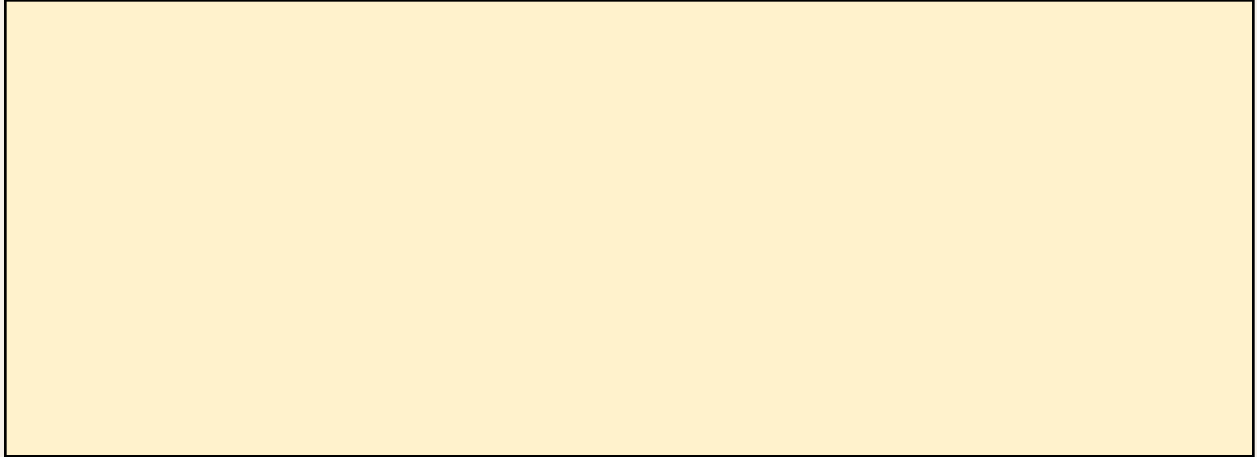
Reflection:

- How are the persistent push factors discussed in this lesson related to the historical processes of colonialism and imperialism explored in the last lesson?
- What preconceived notions did you have about the reasons people migrate? What did you learn in this lesson that surprised you?



Module 1, Lesson 3: Exposing the Myth of the American Dream

Notes:



Reflection:

- Before this lesson, what did the “American Dream” mean to you? How did you learn that meaning? If your understanding of the “American Dream” has changed, how so?
- Who does the traditional “American Dream” benefit? What narrative does it perpetuate and how does that narrative benefit or harm particular groups of people in the United States?



Module 2, Lesson 1: The Physical Journey

Notes:



Reflection:

- What surprises you about the journey to the U.S.-Mexico border? Which of those experiences do you believe are overlooked or overshadowed in prevailing narratives about immigration?
- What physical aspects of the migration journey might continue to impact migrants even after finding residence in the United States?
- Can you identify some of the ways migrants interact with the state or U.S. government during their journey beyond the U.S.-Mexico border?



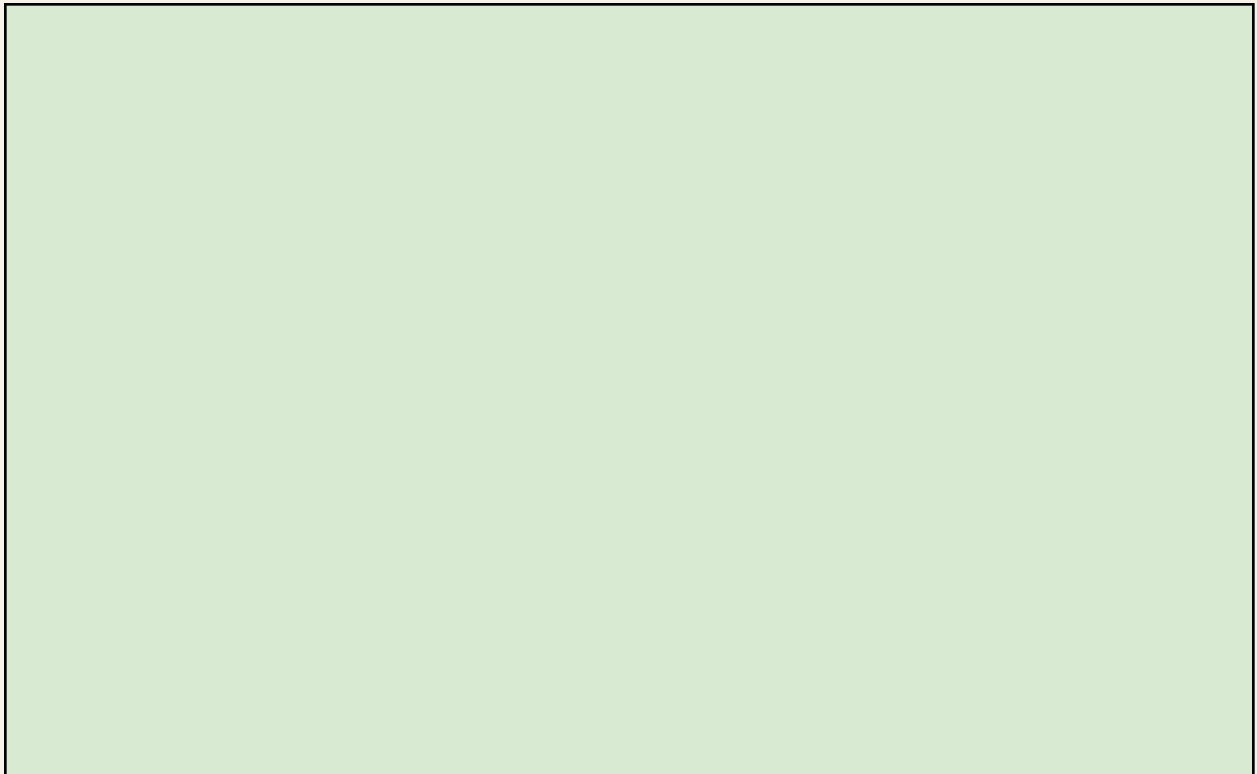
Module 2, Lesson 2: The Non-Physical Journey

Notes:



Reflection:

- Think about the multi-faceted challenges that migrants face during their migration. How do they intersect and overlap?
- How might understanding the non-physical, often invisibilized, aspects of migration contribute to a shift in narratives about migrants?



Module 2, Lesson 3: “I Can’t Believe I Did It”

Notes:



Reflection:

- What is your initial reaction to these reflections? Were they surprising? Why or why not?
- How does the pride expressed in these five reflections relate to the physical and non-physical challenges explored in lessons 1 and 2 of this module?
- How might these feelings shape the ways in which migrants’ perceive their future, their communities, and their support systems in D.C., the United States, and beyond?



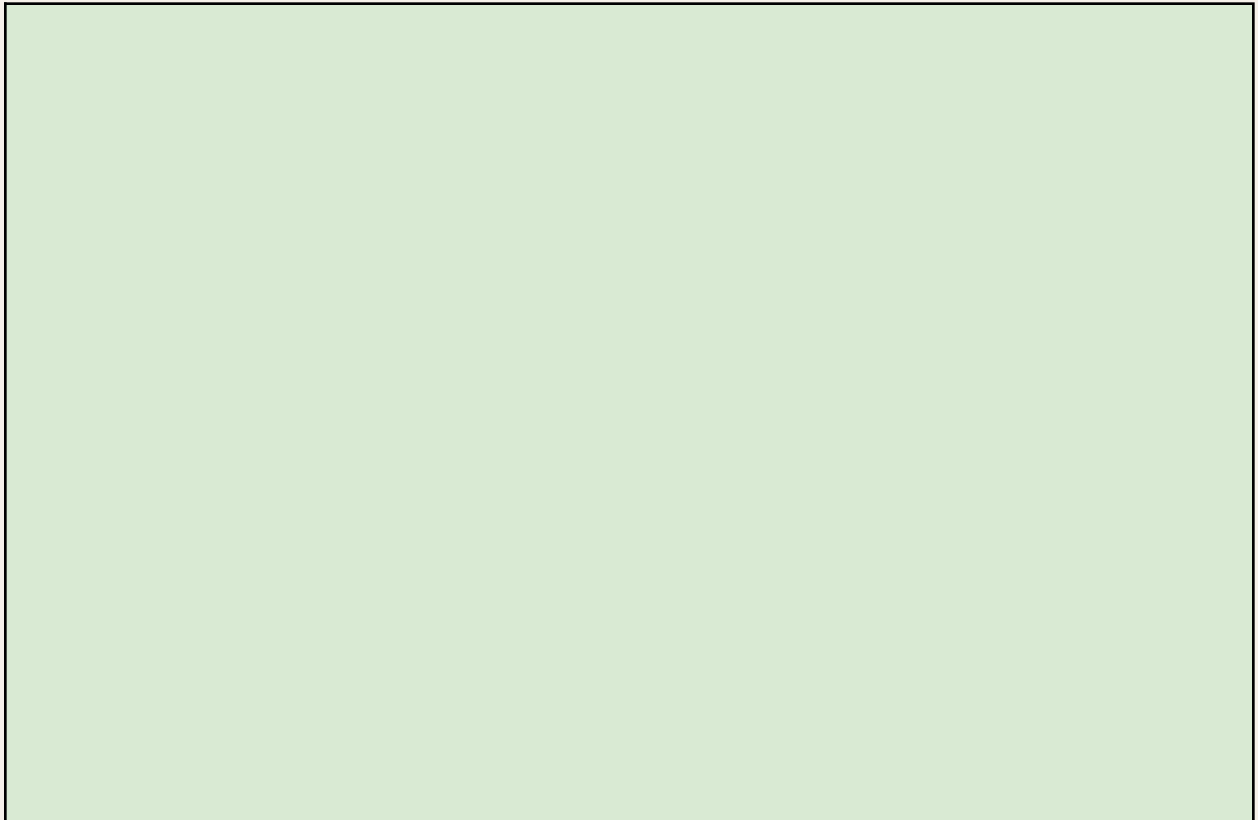
Module 3, Lesson 1: History of Immigration to D.C.

Notes:



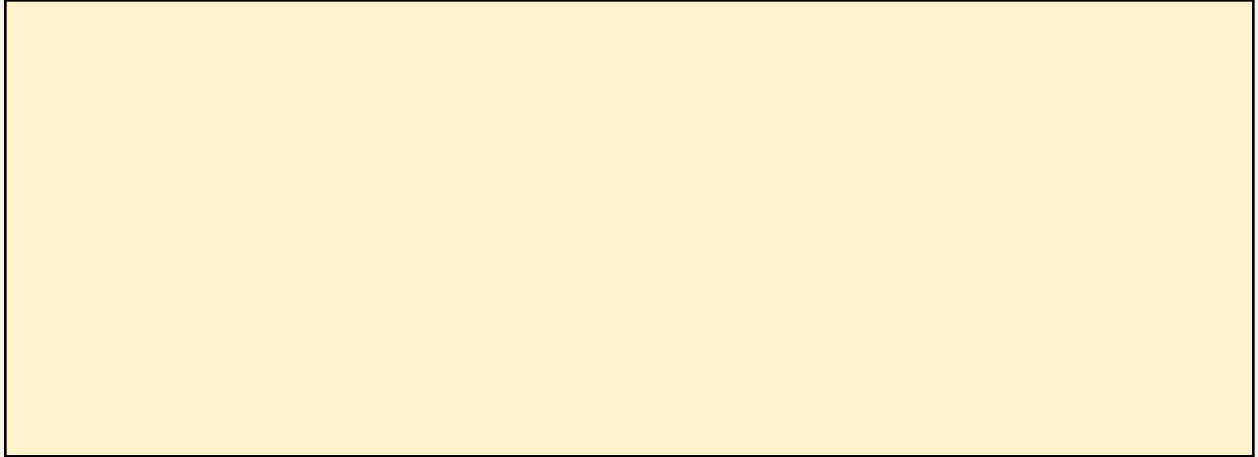
Reflection:

- How has the presence of migrants in D.C. shaped the city as it exists today?
- Based on your own experiences, what is the best way for the District to welcome newcomer immigrants? What does D.C.'s history say about its ability to do so?



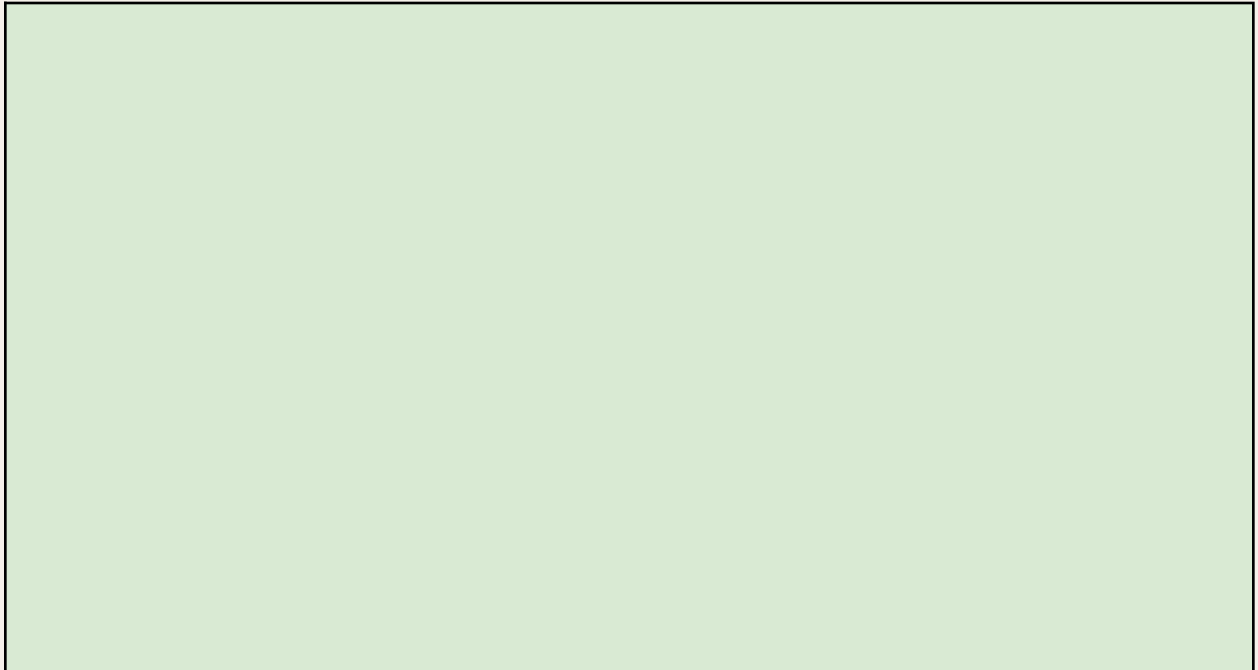
Module 2, Lesson 2: Present Day Challenges for Immigrants in D.C.

Notes:



Reflection:

- Using examples shared by our protagonists, how are the legal, employment, and housing challenges facing migrants interconnected?
- Based on this lesson and your own experiences, in what ways are the challenges migrants face similar or different to those facing residents? Use the case of D.C. or your hometown for examples.



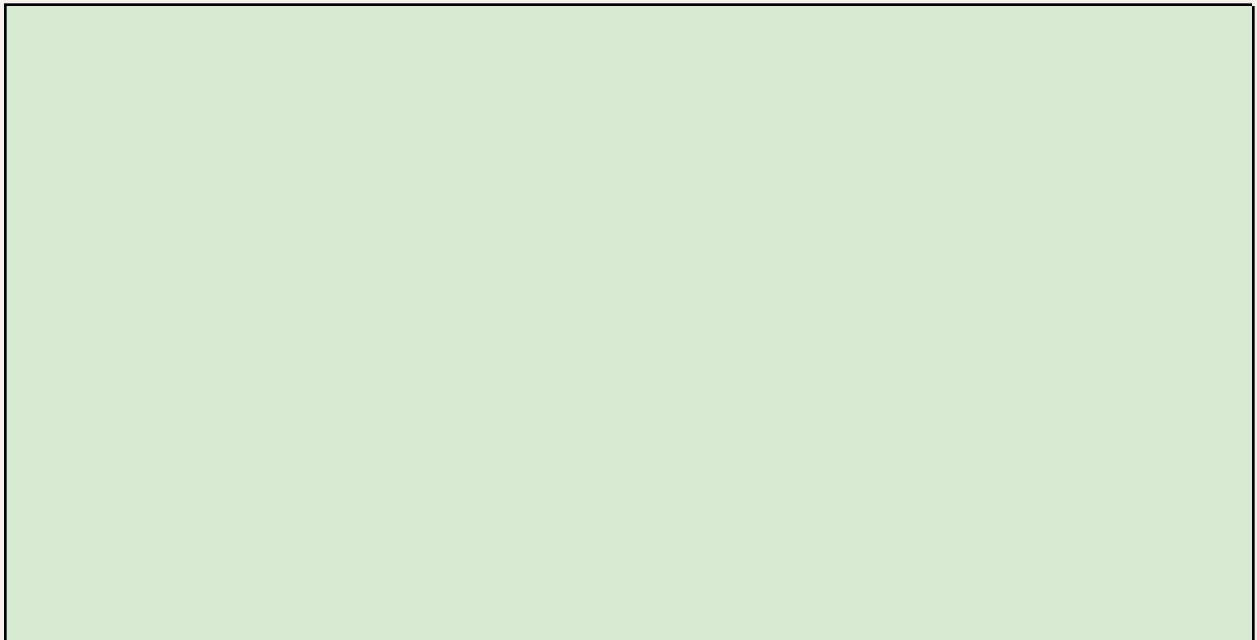
Module 3, Lesson 3: Exposing the Myth of Sanctuary Cities

Notes:



Reflection:

- Connect the proposed missions of sanctuary cities to the myth of the American Dream that was discussed in Module 1, Lesson 3. How do they relate to one another? What similarities or contradictions can you draw about how they contribute to a particular narrative about migration
- What responsibility does the United States have to respond to incoming waves of migration? Does the responsibility differ from that of the State? On the local level, what is your responsibility as a citizen and community member?



Conclusion: Final Reflection

The primary aim of this project is that you take your learnings from this course and apply them to your work in or around migrants in your community. Even if you do not work directly with migrants, this course challenges dominant narratives of migration that may have influenced your own perspective of migrants.

As a final reflection, think back on the many narratives you encountered throughout this training and what they revealed about Latin American migration. Then, reflect meaningfully on these final questions:

- What are your main takeaways of MigrantVoices D.C.? How has this course changed your understanding of the migration experience?
- What will you do now? Going forward, how will your learnings from this course impact your work, especially if you work in and around migrants in D.C.?