

Growing New Roots: The Voices of Immigrant Teenagers in Canada

Introduction

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Hi, my name is Stephanie Sodo-Gordon. I'm an ESL teacher and the curriculum leader of ESL and international languages at William Lyon Mackenzie. The stories you are about to hear were created by my ESL students about their immigrant experiences. They are stories that we need to listen to considering that on average 17 000 ESL students come to Ontario each year. Thank - you for listening to their voices.

Before Coming to Canada...

Before coming to Canada I thought that I was going to be happy and that people were kind.

Before coming to Canada expected that Canada would be a very cold country and freezing wind.

The snow in Canada was very nice but the winter in Canada was cold.

The thing that is really difficult for me is the cold weather.

Before coming to Canada I imagined that Canada would be a quiet place. The people are not fighting so much.

I imagined that life would be easy here and people are friendly.

When I left my family I was so sad because I was leaving them.

Before leaving my country I realized that I would be missing my friends.

When I left my country I was sad because all my family and friends are there.

After Arriving in Canada...

After leaving my country of origin for here I felt devastated because of my parents and relatives. On the other hand I was looking forward to getting to know people from all over.

The thing that really happy in this country was the good education system and the opportunity to demand fair rights.

Having job is making me happy now I can earn my own money

It's hard for me to balance school and work.

I feel pressure because my parents spend lots money for me.

One thing that made me happy was teachers that were very helpful.

My teachers helped me a lot with my language, especially my English teacher.

The teachers are helping me if I have a problem.

What has been made me happy is the teachers understand you a lot.

The thing that is good for me the first way to speak the language is to hear it a lot.

What I has been difficult ...

Researching things is not easy for me.

What has been difficult for me in Canada is the language barrier and student division into groups by language which makes learning English harder.

Doing presentations is hard for me because sometimes they cannot understand what I am talking about.

Some teachers understand me, some teachers do not understand me.

What hasn't been difficult for me is that I can express myself easily.

I missed my friends, and another one was that I missed my family.

I need to work hard for me and my sister to survive.

What has been difficult for me to live like a machine, getting up in the morning going to school, going to work and again going to bed is difficult for...

Being difficult for me is I do not speak English and I don't have French.

The food is terrible and the people are not kind.

I asked some Canadian guys to explain what means a word as they begin laughing at me.

When I came here some people made fun of me. I didn't understand language and some people made fun of my speaking.

How I can help myself...

What I will do to help myself is that I will wear heavy clothes during the winter.

What can I help myself is that I will wear more clothes.

And I will also learn how to communicate in the different languages.

Because sometimes I can't understand what the teacher is talking about in class, so I always ask for extra help.

What can I do is look for help from someone older than I and that will be the teachers or the counsellors.

I will talk with somebody. I never give up when I have problems.

I will help myself by taking more time at school and getting involved in the community.

To help myself I will read more books that are English ask help from my friends and teachers.

I can ask help from the guidance counsellor and the teacher.

What can I do to help myself? Well, the first thing I did was read a lot of books, get into other groups of people that don't speak my own language, try to speak English more.

I can help myself by reading more stories and talk to friends.

I can help myself by joining school clubs and talking to friends.

To help myself I will try to go out with some friends a bit more often.

I will pray and I will talk with somebody.

How can teacher's help me?

What could teachers do to help me? They could try to find some people from the same background as me like the ambassador program from our school, which when you come they can find people from their country.

The teachers could help me by providing more group work and class assignments. And to create to more clubs to get with people who know my language.

The teachers can help me by creating more groups, clubs in the classes and helping other students understand the language.

My teachers can help me by being more open to student's problems as well as before writing an essay they should provide us a sample example.

Like my teacher will give me some example essay and the structure so I can do essay myself and it is easier for me.

The teacher can help me by providing more ESL school and by giving me more to work on.

My teacher can help me is more ESL course.

Is leaving me different assignments that know my knowledge that will be assignments from my country.

Teachers can help me by giving extra time for exams and I need more help with writing essays and projects.

They can use different ways to mark that don't require all your English.

Teacher's can help me by being more flexible about the homework and tests.

What teachers can do to help me is that they should have patience with me and they should also get involved with my personal issues.

Knowing the student not only inside the class but also outside and treating the student as if it's their family.

If a teacher gives us homework we are going to try to do that well, but if that don't well I want them to know that I am trying my best.

Thank-you...

Thank-you for listening to my voice.

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