

Graphic Organizer

Weighing the Risks, Costs, and Benefits of Immigration

Put yourself in your immigrant character’s shoes. What would it be like to make the decision to leave the only home you ever knew to begin all over again in a strange new place? How might they have come to the decision to leave? What “pushed” them away from home? What “pulled” them to western Pennsylvania?

- Research the homeland of your immigrant character at the time of his/her immigration around 1900. What was happening politically, economically, socially, religiously? How would any of these events influence his/her decision to leave?
- List in the chart below:
 1. The costs and risks of staying in his/her homeland and of leaving his/her homeland;
 2. The benefits of staying in his/her homeland and of leaving his/her homeland;
- Weigh the costs/risks and benefits of staying vs. leaving. Which decision -- staying or leaving -- tips the balance? Why?

	Costs/risks	Benefits
Staying home		
Leaving home		

