

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Expository Unit  
On-Demand Writing**

*Texts: "Today's Immigrants" and  
"Mexico - Life at the Border"*

**REMINDER**

- Write your response to the writing prompt below.
- You may give your writing a title if you like, but it is not necessary.
- You may NOT use a dictionary. If you do not know how to spell a word, sound the word out and do the best you can.
- You may either print or write in cursive.
- Write clearly! Any erasures or strike-throughs should be as clean as possible.

**Writing Task:**

Write an essay in which you explain the concerns that exist today in the United States over illegal and/or legal immigration. Your essay should include an explanation of the situation and any problems and solutions that come to mind. To develop your essay, be sure to use specific evidence drawn from articles you have read - including the articles mentioned above - and/or any prior knowledge you have acquired on the issue.

**CHECKLIST FOR YOUR WRITING**

The following checklist will help you do your best work. Make sure you:

- \_\_\_\_\_carefully read the texts and the description of the writing task.
- \_\_\_\_\_develop a clear thesis (claim) related to the writing task.
- \_\_\_\_\_organize your writing with a strong introduction, body and conclusion.
- \_\_\_\_\_use specific details and examples to fully support your ideas.
- \_\_\_\_\_vary your sentences to make your writing interesting to read.
- \_\_\_\_\_check for mistakes in grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and sentence formation.

Note: This format is similar to the California High School Exit Exam and meets the following 8<sup>th</sup> grade standards: R. 2.2, 2.3; WS 1.1, 1.3, 1.5; WC 1.1-1.6

SDSC Mid-level Expository Unit 8/13/07