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Perry Service Learning Program  
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Summative Writing Assessment

In the book, *Enrique’s Journey* written by Sonia Nazario, the author states that immigration is something that can only be addressed at its source. The book does not effectively demonstrate this claim. Rather than talking about the issues of immigration and how to help it, she manages to adequately pull at your heartstrings and focus on the hardships the children endure. She states that immigration can only be addressed at the source, but never continues to say how.

The author tends to take a more liberal stance on the issue. After travelling the journey that most kids do, she would probably want a looser interpretation of the laws on deportation and immigration knowing what they go through to get here. This is not what our country needs. Buckling down on border security and deportation laws is necessary for our country. Illegal immigrants are coming into the United States and taking jobs away from legal American citizens who need the money just as much as they do. Some immigrants are getting paid under the table because they are not legalized, which means they are not paying their taxes and this only hurts our country more. In order to stop illegal aliens from coming to the United States, organizations and aid groups should be implemented in the country of origin.

There are organizations that attempt to make the countries of illegal immigrants a better place to live so they do not have to search for an improved civilization. Programs like Heifer International, Kiva International, and the Grameen Foundation are examples of organizations working to address this issue in struggling countries. By implementing programs to teach citizens about finances or give education and food it will improve the quality of living in their home country so they don’t have to immigrate. If we help to educate children in countries like Mexico and Honduras, they can then get jobs when they are older and afford to pay for education for their children which will eventually start a chain reaction.

In the text*,* Enrique’s mother, Lourdes, leaves Honduras to earn money in the United States. Like many other mothers from Central America and Mexico, “Lourdes… goes door to door, selling tortillas, used clothes, and plantains” in a feeble attempt to provide for her children (Nazario, 4). This is why many move from their country, because they do not have a secure job to earn money. Implementing programs like the Grameen Foundation can allow citizens to increase their success so they do not have to immigrate and decrease the success of others in another country. “Many go north seeking work” (Nazario, 5). If we put opportunities to work in their country, they won’t need to go north.

Nazario does not effectively demonstrate that immigration “can only be addressed at its source”. In fact, she does not address any issues or opposing viewpoints on the topic in her book. She only focuses on one viewpoint and that is of the families struggling in the south. This does not help to address the issue, only to make people sympathize for these families. In order to fix the issue and not have six year olds riding on the top of trains, their country needs to become a place they want to be. Where they can become successful and thrive. It is not right for them to steal the success out of an American’s hand when they are living here legally and are trying to get a job the right and truthful way. The claim Nazario makes is supported, but she does not address it in her book.

Nazario, Sonia. *Enrique's Journey*. New York: Random House, 2006. Print.