

Mass Immigration – Historical Documents

To further understand the experiences of Jews during this time, read some of the following documents. Break into small groups and read and analyze two of the following documents:

- *HIAS Offers Help To New Arrivals*
- *They Really Gave You A Thorough Exam*
- *My First American Clothing*
- *A Wife Bares Her Head*
- *Making A Living In Chicago*
- *A Kansas City Slum*
- *Children As The Focus Of Americanization*
- *Learn English*
- *An Indictment of Working Conditions*
- *An Appeal For Donations*

Answer the following questions for each document:

- 1) Who wrote the document? What was his or her point of view? How is this evident in the document?
- 2) Who is the intended audience? What evidence in leads you to believe this?
- 3) What is the tone of the document? Is it telling a story, or trying to persuade someone to believe a point of view?
- 4) Why was this document written? Use examples to support your answer.
- 5) What does this document tell you about Jewish life in America during this period?