

Rand Paul's Immigration Speech

This is an excerpt of Senator Rand Paul's Immigration Speech delivered on 14 March 2013 to the US Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

	[...] I lived, worked, played and grew up alongside Latinos. As a teenager I worked alongside immigrants mowing lawns and putting in landscaping around businesses.	
5	I remember once asking one of the immigrant workers how much he was being paid. "Cuanto le pagan por el trabajo?"	
	He responded, "Tres dolars." I responded, "Yo tambien. Tres dolars, por hora ...?"	
10	He shook his head, "No, tres dolars, por dia!"	
	At a young age, I came to understand that it makes a difference whether you are a documented immigrant or an undocumented immigrant, that the existence was not easy for the undocumented but that opportunity in	
15	America somehow trumped even the poor living conditions and low pay.	
	I wondered what circumstances must have been like in his country to choose an admittedly tough life in the shadows.	
20	[...] Immigration is a contentious issue in American politics. In our zeal for border control, we have sometimes obscured our respect and admiration for immigrants and their contribution to America.	
	Republicans have been losing both the respect and votes of a group of people who already identify with our belief in family, faith, and conservative values. [...]	
25	Whether we are discussing hard work, respect for life or the quest for freedom, immigrants bring with them the same values that previous generations of immigrants did.	
30	Defense of the unborn and defense of traditional marriage are Republican issues that should resonate with Latinos but have been obscured by the misperception that Republicans are hostile to immigrants.	
35	Somewhere along the line Republicans have failed to understand and articulate that immigrants are an asset to America, not a liability.	
40	My German great-grandparents didn't speak much English when they came to America. They didn't have	
	much, but they also didn't ask for much – all they wanted was an opportunity.	
	They began in America peddling vegetables.	
	They finally got that opportunity when they started a dairy business in their garage, scraping	45
	together a living, raising a family, and constantly working to give their children a better life than they had.	
	My great-grandfather came to America in the 1880's. His father died after only six months in	50
	America. At 14, my great-grandfather was alone.	
	He survived and ultimately thrived in his new country with a new language. In their home and their church they spoke German.	
	Republicans who criticize the use of two languages make a great mistake.	55
	As the son of immigrants, my grandfather, who only had an 8th grade education, would live to see his own children all go to college. They became ministers, professors, doctors and	60
	accountants and one of them became a Congressman.	
	My family's story is like that of millions of others who came to this country. Every generation of immigrants wants these	65
	opportunities.	
	Many have faced intolerance and bigotry. It was not always easy to be German American in the face of two world wars started by Germans. Intolerance is not new, and it is not limited to one	70
	language or skin color.	
	But through our rich history, and for many millions of immigrants who came to America, such sacrifice and hardship was worth it. They wanted what all Americans want – better lives for	75
	themselves, their children and grandchildren. For the American Dream to be achievable for all, we have to have an educational system that	
	believes that all students have the capability to succeed.	80
	(563 words)	

Annotations

line 6: *Cuanto le pagan por el trabajo?* (Span) – How much do you get for your work?

line 8: *tres dolars* (Span) – three dollars

line 8: *Yo tambien. Tres dolars, por hora?* (Span) – Me too. Three dollars per hour?

line 10: *No, tres dolars, por dia!* (Span) – No, three dollars per day!

line 20: **contentious** – controversial

line 21: **zeal** – vehemence, intensity

line 22: **obscured** – buried, hidden

line 31: **defense of the unborn** – protecting unborn babies (Senator Paul is against abortion)

line 38: **asset** – enrichment

line 38: **liability** – burden

Tasks

1 Content/Comprehension

Summarise Senator Paul's point of view concerning immigration policy.

2 Form/Analysis

Analyse how the speaker tries to convince his audience that there has to be change in America's immigration policy.

3 Comment/Text production

- a) Evaluate Senator Paul's integration policy as it relates to the American Dream.
- b) Immigration is a controversial topic in the US according to Senator Paul: "Immigration is a contentious issue in American politics." (ll. 20–21) Write an email to Senator Paul and explain why you agree or disagree with his approach to change America's immigration policy.

Einbürgerungsfeier anlässlich 65 Jahre Grundgesetz

Der folgende Auszug stammt aus der Rede zur Einbürgerungsfeier, die Bundespräsident Joachim Gauck am 22. Mai 2014 im Schloss Bellevue hielt.

<p>Seien Sie alle herzlich willkommen an einem Tag, der uns einen doppelten Grund zur Freude gibt: Morgen wird unser Grundgesetz 65 Jahre alt. Und heute werden 23 unter Ihnen Staatsbürger einer</p> <p>5 Republik, die auf der besten Verfassung gründet, die Deutschland jemals gehabt hat. Und zu diesem Anlass begrüße ich Sie herzlich in diesem schönen und bescheidenen Schloss Bellevue, meinem Dienstsitz, Ihrem Schloss. [...]</p> <p>10 Ich will von den Veränderungen sprechen, die Einwanderung für unser Land bringt. Von den Zumutungen, die diese Veränderungen manchmal bedeuten. Von dem, was wir, Alt-Deutsche wie Neu-Deutsche, gewinnen und was wir längst gewonnen</p> <p>15 haben. Vor allem möchte ich aber über die Haltung sprechen, mit der wir einander begegnen oder begegnen sollten – als Gleiche und doch Verschiedene.</p> <p>Jeder fünfte von uns hat inzwischen familiäre</p> <p>20 Wurzeln im Ausland, Tendenz steigend. Das hat verschiedene, gute Gründe: unsere wirtschaftliche und politische Stabilität, unsere Rechtssicherheit, unsere Zugehörigkeit zu einem Europa der Freizügigkeit und unsere humanitäre Verpflichtung gegenüber Verfolgten</p> <p>25 und nicht zuletzt auch die kulturelle Strahlkraft unseres Landes.</p> <p>Ein Blick in den Saal genügt, um zu erkennen: Wer Deutscher ist, wird künftig noch viel weniger als bisher am Namen oder am Äußeren zu erkennen sein. Und</p> <p>30 wenn ich in die Gesichter der jungen Leute hier vor mir sehe, dann weiß ich: Für diese Generation wird Deutschland nie anders gewesen sein als vielfältig.</p>	<p>Schauen wir uns um im Land. Mit Aydan Özoğuz sitzt erstmals eine Tochter von Einwanderern im Bundeskabinett. Dem</p> <p>35 Bundestag gehören heute mehr Abgeordnete mit Migrationshintergrund an als je zuvor. Ein Deutscher mit iranischer Familiengeschichte, Navid Kermani, wird morgen im Bundestag zur Feier unseres Verfassungstages sprechen. Ein</p> <p>40 im Irak geborener Designer, Rayan Abdullah, hat daran mitgewirkt, das Aussehen unseres Bundesadlers aufzufrischen und ihm im Wortsinne die Augen geöffnet. Und einem türkeistämmigen Regisseur, Bora Dağtekin,</p> <p>45 verdanken wir den erfolgreichsten deutschen Spielfilm des vergangenen Jahres. Ilija Trojanow, Terézia Mora, Saša Stanišić, – so heißen heutzutage die Träger des Leipziger Buchpreises. Sie schreiben auf Deutsch, doch</p> <p>50 ihre Helden sind auch außerhalb Deutschlands zuhause.</p> <p>Der Blick ins Land zeigt, wie – ja, ich würde sagen – skurril es ist, wenn manche der Vorstellung anhängen, es könne so etwas geben</p> <p>55 wie ein homogenes, abgeschlossenes, gewissermaßen einfarbiges Deutschland. Es wird zunehmend als Normalität empfunden, dass wir verschieden sind – und zwar verschiedener denn je. [...]</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(375 words) 60</p>
---	---

4 Mediation

Your Australian friend Geoff is proud to live in a diverse country and thinks that Australian politicians are welcoming towards immigrants. You want to show him that Germany is also diverse and its politicians also acknowledge and embrace diversity. You have done some online research and found an excerpt from Gauck's speech during the naturalisation ceremony in May 2014. Write an email to Geoff in which you explain who Joachim Gauck is and outline Gauck's perception of German society.

Erwartungshorizont

Textinformationen

Autor Senator Rand Paul
Titel Immigration Speech
Quelle Senator Rand Paul to the US Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, 14 March 2013, <http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2013/03/19/text-of-rand-pauls-immigration-speech/> (geprüft: 23.02.2015)

Textformat (Textlänge) Redeauszug (563 Wörter)

Autor Bundespräsident Joachim Gauck
Titel Einbürgerungsfeier anlässlich 65 Jahre Grundgesetz
Quelle Der Bundespräsident, 22.05.2014, <http://www.bundespraesident.de/SharedDocs/Reden/DE/Joachim-Gauck/Reden/2014/05/140522-Einbuengerung-Integration.html> (geprüft: 23.02.2015)

Textformat (Textlänge) Redeauszug (373 Wörter)

1 Content/Comprehension

Summarise Senator Paul's point of view concerning immigration policy.

In his speech Senator Rand Paul says that immigrants are treated unequally in the US and that America is obsessed with border control and has lost its respect and admiration for immigrants and their contribution to society. Paul emphasises that immigrants share the same American values including hard work, respect for life and the quest for freedom. According to him immigrants have fostered these values for generations. Senator Paul thinks immigrants clearly enrich American society and are not a burden. He tells his family's story, which is an example of millions of other immigrant stories to illustrate how immigrants have contributed to America. He also states that every immigrant deserves the same opportunities. Senator Paul is of the opinion that America has to provide an effective educational system to give all students the opportunity to live the American Dream. In addition, he clearly criticises people who are intolerant and bigoted and prefer stricter border control.

2 Form/Analysis

Analyse how the speaker tries to convince his audience that there has to be change in America's immigration policy.

The speaker tries to convince the reader to be more open-minded towards immigrants, be more welcoming and support a better/fairer immigration policy by:

- ♦ illustrating his own personal experience with immigrants (ll. 1ff: "I lived, worked, played and grew up alongside Latinos. As a teenager I worked alongside immigrants mowing lawns and putting in landscaping around businesses.") Here the speaker uses an enumeration to demonstrate his experience with immigrants.
- ♦ demonstrating that immigrants are treated unequally (ll. 10ff: "I came to understand that it makes a difference whether you are a documented immigrant or an undocumented immigrant.")
- ♦ explaining how illegal immigrants are exploited (ll. 7ff: "He responded 'tres dolars.' I responded, 'Yo tambien. Tres Dolars, por hora ...?' He shook his head, 'No, tres Dolars, por dia!'") By using this example he shows that America needs better and fairer immigration laws.
- ♦ using the pronoun "our" (l. 20) to demonstrate that immigrants and Americans share the same values
- ♦ using contrasts to emphasise the importance of immigrants in America (ll. 36f: "immigrants are an asset to America, not a liability")
- ♦ telling his family's story to show the intolerance and bigotry immigrants have to face as well as their willingness to work hard and to overcome these struggles in search of a better life (l. 38: "My German ...")
- ♦ repeating the word "all" (three times, ll. 74, 76, 78) in the last paragraph to illustrate that he fights for immigrant rights so they can have the same opportunities as all Americans

All in all, Senator Paul illustrates that America has to improve its immigration policy, and he shows where improvements can be made. In this way he tries to convince the reader to share his point of view.

3 Comment/Text production

a) Evaluate Senator Paul's integration policy in relation to the American Dream.

Looking at Senator Paul's own family history and his personal experiences with Latino immigrants, I totally agree that immigrants have to be given the opportunity to achieve the American Dream by earning fair wages and having access to an educational system which enables all students to succeed. Senator Paul does not mention immigrants who have not integrated into American society, and I think it is problematic to exclude the issue. I think he should also think about a way to integrate those immigrants as well. However, it is hard to say why some immigrants do not integrate – they might find it difficult because they have to face intolerance and bigotry. All in all, I think that Senator Paul is right when he says that America is a country of immigrants, and immigrants have contributed immensely to what America is today. Due to this fact the US should give legal and illegal immigrants the chance to achieve the American Dream as well.

b) Immigration is a controversial topic in the US according to Senator Paul: "Immigration is a contentious issue in American politics." (ll. 20–21) Write an email to Senator Paul and explain whether you agree or disagree with his approach to change America's immigration policy.

Dear Senator Paul

Immigration policy has definitely prompted heated debates in America because it is a controversial topic especially after the 9/11 attacks. Unfortunately, this attack shocked America and led to the fact that innocent immigrants have been scapegoated by Americans.

More and more Americans think that immigration has to be regulated and that America needs stricter border control as you mentioned. From my point of view enforcing stricter immigration laws and deportations do not solve the problem. I totally agree with your suggestion that America has to be more welcoming and provide all students an educational system which gives everyone the ability to succeed America. Giving them the chance to have a good education will also have long-term benefits for the American economy and contribute to America's well-being. Furthermore, the inequality has to be stopped; it is unfair that people get different wages for the same work just because they are illegal immigrants. This is inhumane exploitation. All illegal immigrants should have the chance to become legal Americans if they are willing to integrate and contribute to society.

All in all, I agree with your approach, especially regarding education, because it opens the door for many immigrants to improve their living conditions and to strengthen their American identity because they live according to the same principles of the American Dream.

Best regards

...

4 Mediation

Your Australian friend Geoff is proud to live in a diverse country and thinks that Australian politicians are welcoming towards immigrants. You want to show him that Germany is also diverse and its politicians also acknowledge and embrace diversity. You have done some online research and found an excerpt from Gauck's speech during the naturalisation ceremony in May 2014. Write an email to Geoff in which you explain who Joachim Gauck is and outline Gauck's perception of German society.

Dear Geoff

Australia has a long-standing tradition of immigration, and that is why Australia is known for having a diverse society and politicians who embrace diversity. Did you know that Germany is also a diverse society, and that our politicians acknowledge and embrace diversity as well?

Joachim Gauck, who is the head of state in the Federal Republic of Germany, is a good example of our German politicians' attitude towards immigration and diversity. In a recent speech he addressed immigrants who had applied for German citizenship and illustrated how he views German society.

Mr Gauck emphasises that Germany has become attractive for immigrants for different reasons. Not only Germany's economic and political stability, but also its cultural background attracts more and more people to move to our country. Germanness is no longer evident by having a German name or a specific appearance; Germany has become a diverse country instead, he says. In order to underline how Germany benefits from diversity and immigration, the German President enumerates many examples of famous Germans of foreign

descent who are contributing substantially to our society in different ways: as politicians, designers, producers or writers. According to Gauck, this development helps to widen our perspective and enriches our culture. He draws the conclusion that our country cannot (and should not) be a homogenous society. Instead, it is diversity that is becoming the norm.

I hope it was interesting for you to hear that Germany is also very diverse. Maybe you can visit me one day and see for yourself!

Take care

...