# Lesson Plan: Understanding Refugee Livelihoods

For 7th -9th graders

Goal: Foster empathy and expose your class to the hardships of having to start a life all over again as a refugee in America.

First, learners watch, discuss, and analyze three first-hand accounts by refugees on their pathway to economic success in America from the bank of Livelihood film shorts by the Forced Migration Upward Mobility Project.

Then use those films to stimulate discussion on the particular difficulties newcomers experience in rebuilding an interrupted career in a new land.

To inforce the larger goal of understanding that refugees come to America with skills and become strong contributors to the US economy, students will read and discuss the online Time Magazine article “Do Immigrants ‘drain’ society” and how the short films they watched might reinforce or detract from points made in that article.

Students may also compare and contrast those stories with the opportunities they might have in their own lives, and then use the films as a springboard to discuss their career plans, any challenges they might face, and strategies they could use to overcome them.

Link to Time Magazine article on line: Do Immigrants drain society?

<http://ideas.time.com/2013/02/12/do-immigrants-drain-society/>