

• CONGRESSIONAL WORKSHOP •
Topic # 4
Establish English as the National Language?

Overview

Questions to ponder: Is this an issue of linguistics or immigration? What about native-born U.S. citizens who are limited-English speaking (such as Puerto Ricans)? Isn't English already the official language for citizenship exams? Will English only mandate that ALL signs and written instruments (roads, ATMs, ballots, voting pamphlets) be printed only in English? Is there a cost factor involved? What about ESL textbooks and classes? Haven't most other countries established one or more language(s) as an official language? Why shouldn't we? If not an official language, then shouldn't English at least be our "national" language?

Background references

- http://www.workings.com/LIA_His.htm
- <http://immigration.about.com/od/ussocialeconomicissues/i/OfficlEngIssue.htm>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Official_language
- <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/JWCRAWFORD/Krashen3.htm>
- <http://www.englishfirst.org/eff/efbb.htm>
- <http://media.www.cw.ua.edu/media/storage/paper959/news/2008/04/17/Opinion/English.Official.Language-3330092.shtml>

Citations supporting the affirmative

- <http://www.us-english.org/inc/>
- <http://capwiz.com/ef/issues/>
- http://www.workings.com/LIA_EOL.htm
- <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1200741,00.html>
- <http://www.proenglish.org/issues/offeng/>
- <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/JWCRAWFORD/can-poll.htm>

Citations supporting the negative

- <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/JWCRAWFORD/question.htm>
- <http://www.pbs.org/speak/seatosea/officialamerican/>
- <http://www.prospect.org/cs/articles?articleId=4809>
- <http://itre.cis.upenn.edu/~myl/language-log/archives/003164.html>
- <http://www.pbs.org/speak/seatosea/officialamerican/spanishthreat/>
- <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/JWCRAWFORD/can-pr.htm>

Additional Magazine References

- The Nation, January 7, 2008, "Divided States"
- New York Times Magazine, July 30, 2006, pg 16, "Official Language"
- The New American, December 25, 2006, "Support Grows for English as Official Language"