

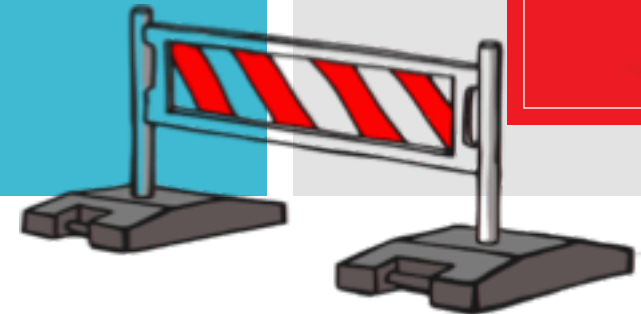
EducLang Conference

Barriers to Academic Achievement in Anti-Immigrant Times

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Shelley Wong (swong1@gmu.edu)

George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia U.S.A



5 Strands of EducLang

- **Area 1: Technology and language teaching and learning**
- **Area 2: French as a second language in Canadian schools**
- **Area 3: Equity in English as a second language**
- **Area 4: Multilingual settings, interculturalism and French as the language of education.**
- **Area 5: Training of French as a second language teachers**

Barriers to literacy for language-minority learners: An argument for change in the literacy education profession

Rachel A. Grant, Shelley D. Wong

What were the barriers before?

As the population of language-minority students grows and higher levels of literacy are expected for all students, more must be done to help English learners achieve educational parity with native English speakers.

Concern about the “performance gaps” in reading achievement has

even prevent language-minority learners from becoming fully literate in English. We use the term “full literacy” to stress not just English proficiency, but levels of achievement, especially in reading and writing, that help learners of English as a second language (ESL) to meet native-speaker norms across the curriculum (Short, 1991).

According to Thomas and Collier (1997), “at least part of the difficulty in productively discussing the education of language minority students has to do with shifting, vague,

Grant teaches in the school of Behavioral Sciences and Education at Penn State University–Harrisburg (W-351 Olmstead Building, room Q, 777 W. Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057, USA). She may be reached by e-mail at rag14@psu.edu. Wong teaches at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, USA.

We argued for
a change in the
literacy
profession...

- Technocratic approaches that ignore “savage inequalities” in education
- “a one-size fits all” approach with mono-lingual English speakers as the norm

Consider:
Are these
5
barriers
still
relevant
today?

5 Barriers to literacy

- 1) Xenophobic English-only movements
- 2) Limitations of resources and personnel
- 3) Controversies concerning bilingual education
- 4) Lack of agreement concerning type of services English language learners should receive
- 5) Cultural and linguistic deficit models

7 Recommendations

- 1) Literacy Programs of study should include second language acquisition, ESL methods, cross linguistic transfer and the study of culture.
- 2) Include second language literacy in all reading methods courses.
- 3) Provide clinical experiences for reading specialists that involve English language learners.
- 4) Become strong advocates for biliteracy.
5. Work to change tests and testing practices that disadvantage children from nonnative English speaking backgrounds.
6. Engage in collaborative research of literacy and ESL education faculty on second language reading.
7. Reexamine personal and professional attitudes about teaching language-minority learners.

5 barriers
still relevant
today

- In addition, *undocumented* students and students from *mixed immigration status families* face numerous obstacles...

Raids

Deportations

Detention



Photo credit:
<http://inthesetimes.com/article/18140/locking-up-immigrant-kids>
https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker/wp/2018/06/19/the-facts-about-trumps-policy-of-separating-families-at-the-border/?hpid=hp_hp-top-table-main-border%3Aimmigration%3Ahomepage%2Fstory&hpid=hp_hp-top-table-main-border%3Aimmigration%3Ahomepage%2Fstory&utm_term=.f6e2308c3261

Current Situation



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w3xmaoHoUqk>

Militarizing the border



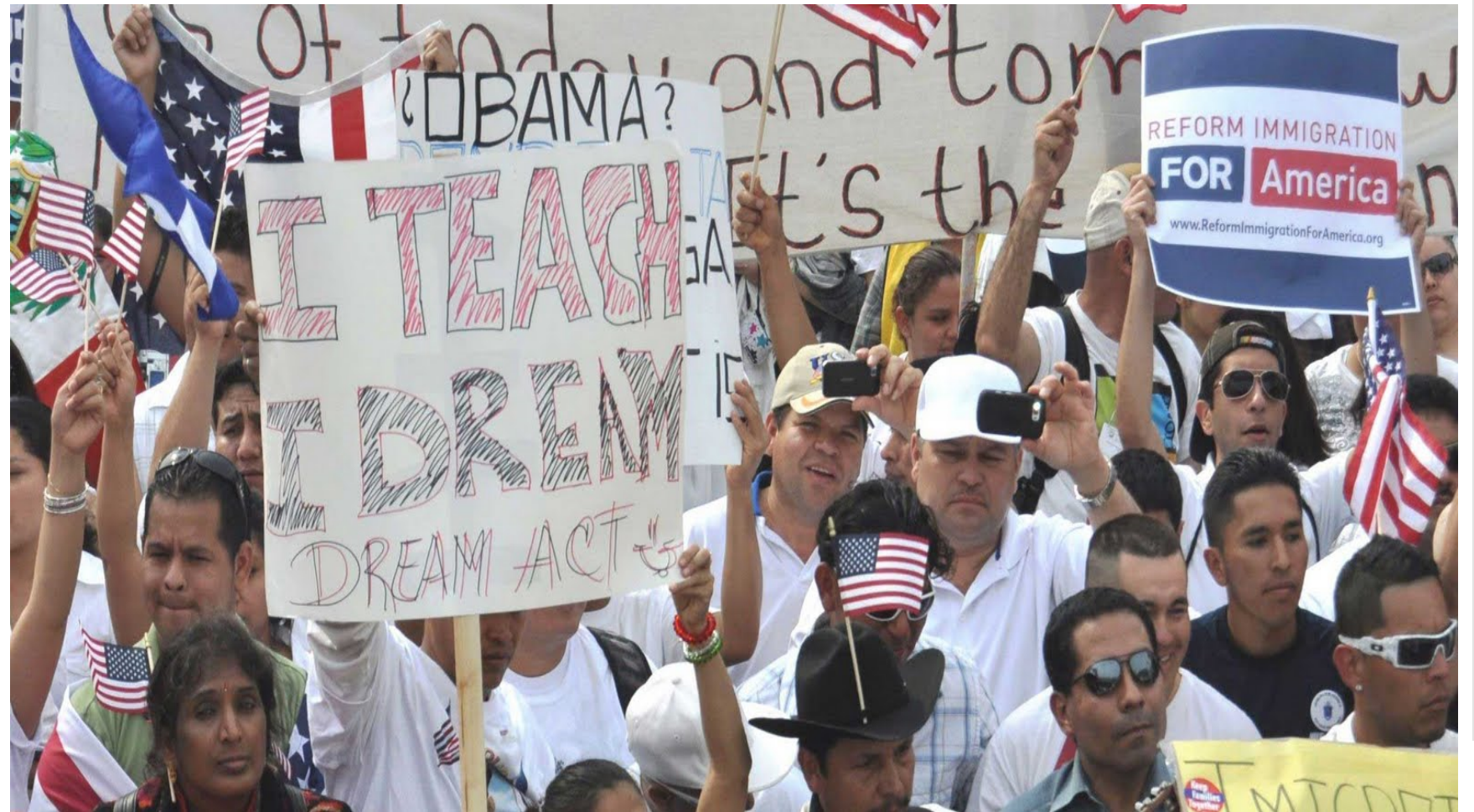
TIME Photo-Illustration. Photographs by Getty Images

Current Situation



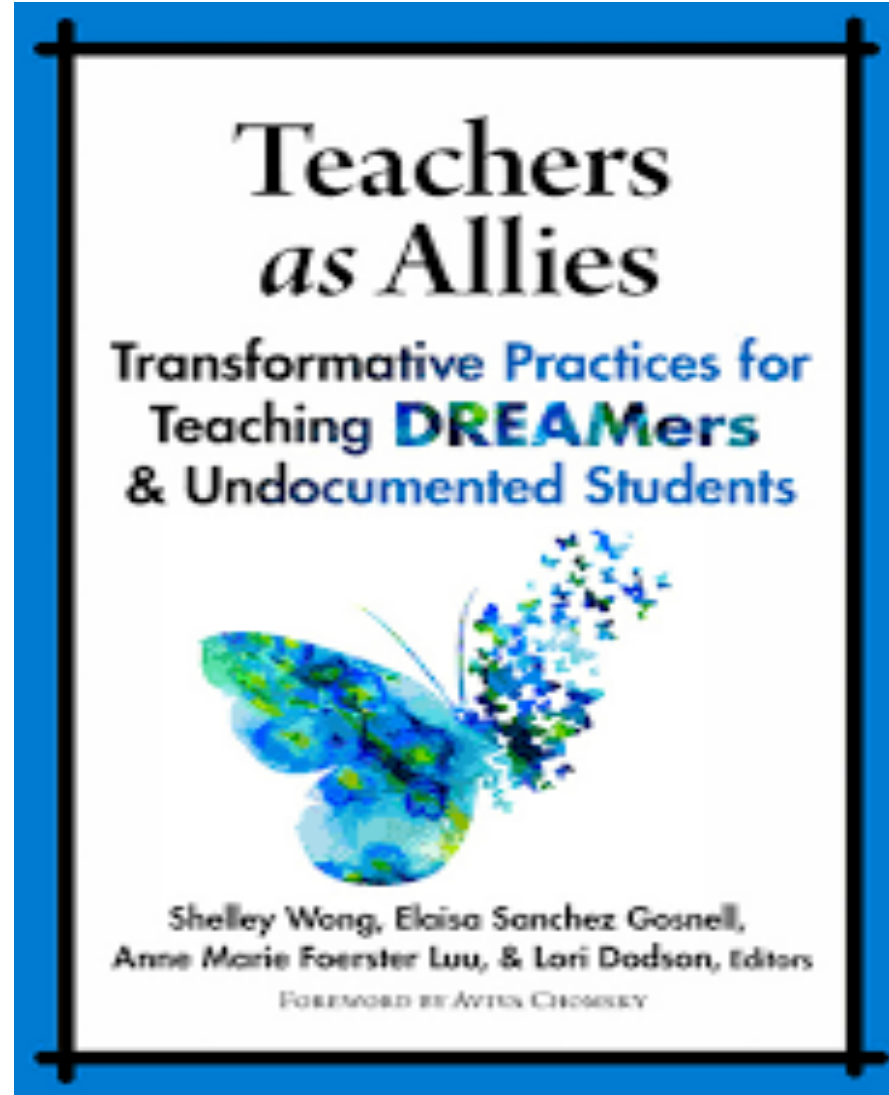
<https://www.cnn.com/2018/06/20/politics/trump-separation-action-immigration/index.html>

The DREAM Act
(Development,
Relief and
Education for
Alien Minors.)





New Barriers in Anti- Immigrant Times



- 1) becoming aware of the realities that immigrant students face



<https://adrikyser.com/becoming-aware-conversation-head/>

Recommendations & Suggestions

2) adopting a problem posing or dilemmas approach that enables teachers to support undocumented students facing adverse circumstances



<http://littletonpublicschools.net/lpsf/grants-lps-teachers>

Recommendations
&
Suggestions

United We Dream
largest immigrant
rights organization
<https://unitedwedream.org/>

COMMUNITY-DRIVEN RESEARCH

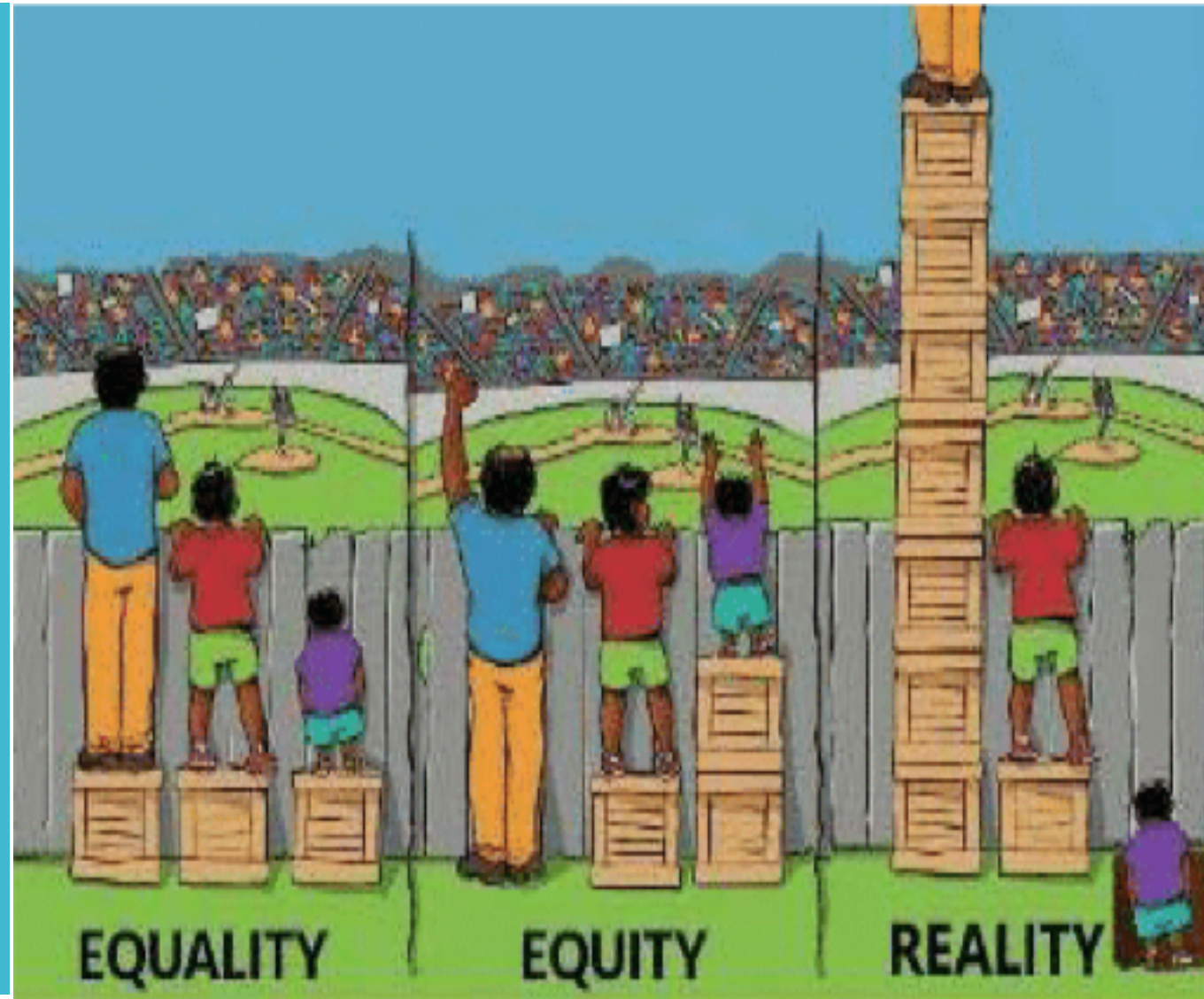
United We Dream launched a community-driven research initiative leading on topics of importance to the immigrant community. These publications help tell the story of our communities in our own words. If you have a suggestion for research ideas that you don't see here or want to feature a tool from your organization, [let us know!](#)



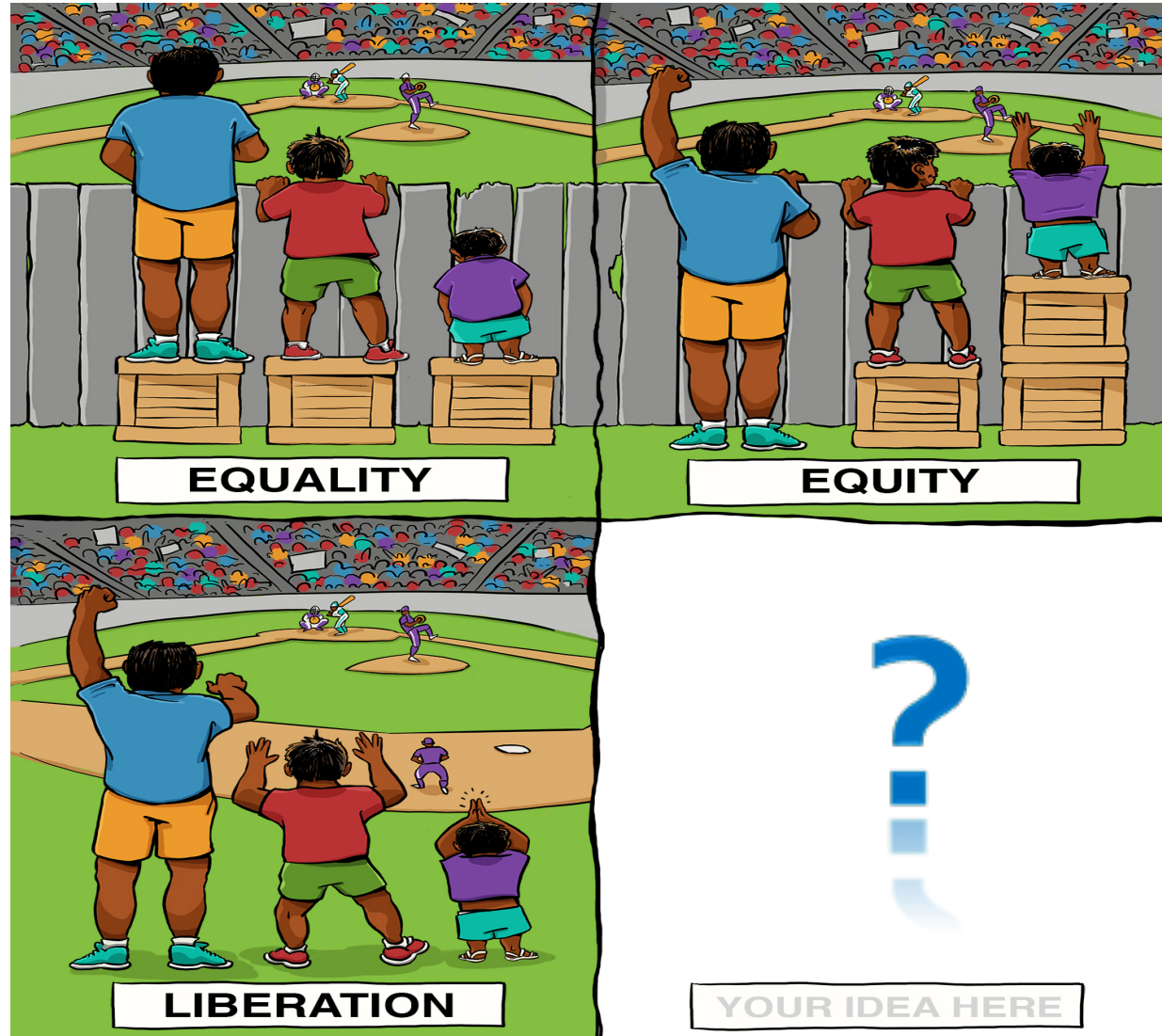
- <https://unitedwedream.org/>

Reality

?

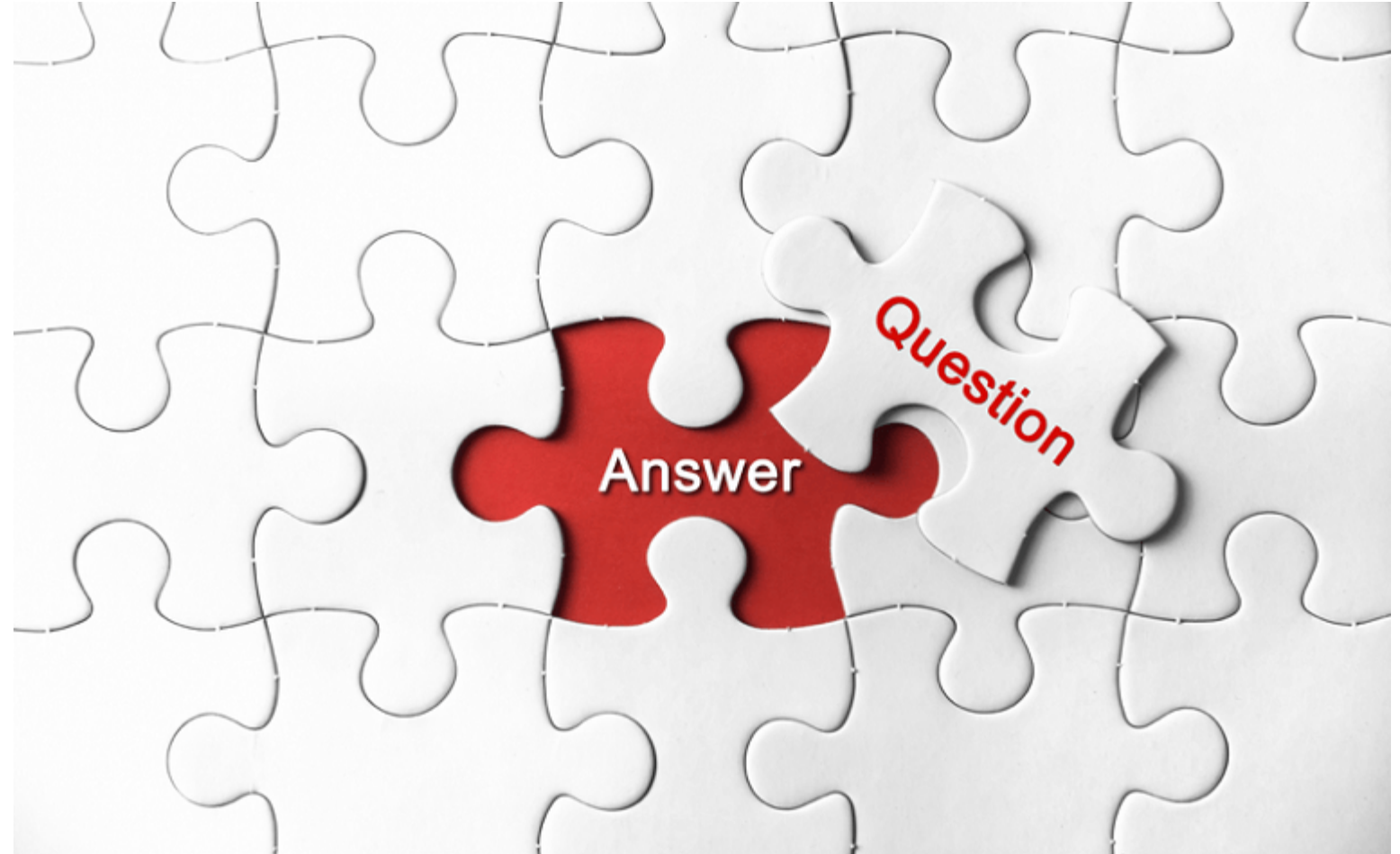


Connection & Closing



- <http://madewithangus.com/portfolio/equality-vs-equity/>

Q & A



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<http://www.ncijustice.org/>

<https://www.uscis.gov/archive/consideration-deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-daca>

