

**Immigrants (We Get the Job Done); K'naan featuring Residente, Riz MC, & Snow Tha Product**

First, you'll be viewing the video for the song "Immigrants (We Get the Job Done)." The twist? You'll be listening to it with the volume off. As you watch, you will critically view and analyze the visual rhetoric. What is the argument that's being made? What purpose does each image and/or clip serve? The video effectively makes an argument on its own - without the accompaniment of a song; your task is to analyze that argument.

The Visual (brief description)	The Analysis (what purpose does this visual serve?)

### Immigrants (We Get the Job Done): The Visual Argument

<p>1. The video begins with a group of people in a train. How would you describe them? Their emotions? Is there a change? What is the tone set up from the beginning and what purpose does it serve?</p>	<p>6. On the subway, some people have black stripes over their eyes. Eventually they remove them. Why do you think this occurs and what message is being sent?</p>
<p>2. Describe the space (e.g. living quarters, bunks, etc.) created in the video. How do you think it affects the people in the video? How does it affect the viewer?</p>	<p>7. Why are people riding on top of the train? What might this symbolize?</p>
<p>3. Given the title, what is the purpose of the people sewing the American flag? How the the symbol create meaning?</p>	<p>8. How does the mood and tone change when the police enter the train? How do you know?</p>
<p>4. There is a series of people working. What types of jobs are represented and what is their purpose?</p>	<p>9. Describe the final image shown with the trains. What is the message being created?</p>
<p>5. The camera reverses angles as the people stare at the camera. What effect does this have on the viewer? Why do you think the people are doing this?</p>	<p>10. Why do you think the entire video is based on modes of transportation? How does it relate to the title of the song?</p>

**Immigrants (We Get the Job Done): Close Reading**

You know, and it gets into this whole issue of border security  
 You know, who's gonna say that the borders are secure?  
 We've got the House and the Senate debating this issue  
 And it's, it's really astonishing that in a country founded by immigrants  
 "Immigrant" has somehow become a bad word  
 So the debate rages on and we continue.

And just like that it's over, we tend to our wounded, we count our dead  
 Black and white soldiers wonder alike if this really means freedom  
 Not yet

I got one job, two job, three when I need them  
 I got five roommates in this one studio, but I never really see them  
 And we all came America trying to get a lap dance from Lady Freedom  
 But now Lady Liberty is acting like Hilary Banks with a pre-nup  
 Man, I was brave, sailing on graves  
 Don't think I didn't notice those tombstones disguised as waves  
 I'm no dummy, here is something funny, you can be an immigrant without  
 risking your lives

Or crossing these borders with thrifty supplies  
 All you got to do is see the world with new eyes

Immigrants, we get the job done

Look how far I come  
 Look how far I come  
 Look how far I come  
 We get the job done  
 Look how far I come  
 Look how far I come  
 Look how far I come

Immigrants, we get the job done

It's a hard line when you're an import  
 Baby boy, it's hard times  
 When you ain't sent for  
 Racists feed the belly of the beast  
 With they pitchforks, rich chores  
 Done by the people that get ignored  
 Ya se armó *(and it started)*  
 Ya se despertaron *(and they awoke)*

*This line is from the musical lyrics and refers to the Battle of Yorktown during the American Revolution. George Washington helped the colonists defeat the British.*

Why does the speaker have five roommates?

What is meant by "sailing on graves" and what effect does it have?

What do you think this speaker thinks about the topic of the song?

*This line from Hamilton is said by Alexander Hamilton (an immigrant to the colonies) and the Marquis de Lafayette, a French general who helped win the battle of Yorktown.*

Why is "look how far I've come" repeated? What meaning does it give?

What is an "import" and why do you think it was used instead of another word?

"Ya se armó" translates to "it has started." What has started?

<p>It's a whole awakening  La alarma ya sonó hace rato (<i>the alarm went off a while ago</i>)  Los que quieren buscan (<i>those who want, search</i>)  Pero nos apodan como vagos (<i>but they label us hoodlums</i>)  We are the same ones  Hustling on every level  Ten los datos (<i>here's the details</i>)  Walk a mile in our shoes  Abróchense los zapatos (<i>better buckle your shoes</i>)</p>	<p>Who do you think the speaker is talking to? What is her message? How is it different than the last speaker? Who does this speaker represent?</p>
<p>I been scoping ya dudes, ya'll ain't been working like I do  I'll outwork you, it hurts you  You claim I'm stealing jobs though  Peter Piper claimed he picked them, he just underpaid Pablo  But there ain't a paper trail when you living in the shadows  We're America's ghost writers, the credit's only borrowed  It's a matter of time before the checks all come  But</p> <p>Immigrants, we get the job done  (repeat chorus)</p> <p>The credit is only borrowed  It's America's ghost writers, the credit's only borrowed  It's America's ghost writers  America's ghost writers  America's ghost writers, the credit's only borrow-borrowed  It's America's ghost writers, a credit is only borrowed  It's America's ghost writers, a credit is only borrowed  It's America's ghost writers, a credit is only borrowed  It's</p>	<p>Do you know the Peter Piper story? How does the speaker change it and for what purpose?</p> <p>What is meant by the line about "ghost writers"? Why is the "credit only borrowed"? What argument is being made?</p>
<p>Immigrants, we get the job done  Ay yo aye, immigrants we don't like that  Na they don't play British empire strikes back  They beating us like 808's and high hats  At our own game of invasion, but this ain't Iraq  Who these fugees what did they do for me  But contribute new dreams  Taxes and tools, swagger and food to eat  Cool, they flee war zones, but the problem ain't ours  Even if our bombs landed on them like the Mayflower  Buckingham Palace or Capitol Hill  Blood of my ancestors had that all built</p>	<p>Who do you think the speaker is talking to? What is his message? How is it different than the last speaker? Who does this speaker represent?</p> <p>What is the purpose of mentioning <i>taxes, tools, swagger, and food</i>?</p> <p>Why are Buckingham Palace and Capitol Hill referred to?</p>

<p>It's the ink you print on your dollar bill, oil you spill Thin red lines on the flag you hoist when you kill But still we just say "look how far I come" Hindustan, Pakistan, to London To a galaxy far from their ignorance 'Cause</p>	<p>This section refers to <i>Star Wars</i> twice. Why do you think so? What is the "galaxy" the speaker refers to?</p>
<p>Immigrants, we get the job done Por tierra o por agua Identidad falsa Brincamos muros o flotamos en balsas La peleamos como Sandino en Nicaragua Somos como las plantas que crecen sin agua Sin pasaporte americano Porque la mitad de gringolandia es terreno mexicano Hay que ser bien hijo de puta Nosotros les sembramos el árbol y ellos se comen la frutas Somos los que cruzaron Aquí vinimos a buscar el oro que nos robaron Tenemos mas trucos que la policía secreta Metimos la casa completa en una maleta Con un pico, una pala Y un rastrillo Te construimos un castillo Como es que dice el coro cabrón?</p>	<p>Who does this new speaker represent? How do you know?</p> <p>What is meant by "gringolandia" and how does history help you understand the speaker's reference?</p> <p>How does the speaker describe the life of this group of immigrants? What message is being sent?</p>
<p>Immigrants, we get the job done (repeat chorus)</p> <p><i>TRANSLATION</i> <i>By land or by water</i> <i>False identity</i> <i>We jump walls or float by rafts</i> <i>We fight it like Sandino in Nicaragua</i> <i>We're like the plants that grow without water</i> <i>Without American passports</i> <i>because half of "gringolandia" is Mexican territory</i> <i>You would have to be a real son of a bitch*</i> <i>We plant the trees and they are the ones that eat the fruit</i> <i>We are the ones that crossed</i> <i>We come here to look for the gold that they stole from us</i> <i>We have more tricks than the secret police</i> <i>We stuffed our whole house in a suitcase</i> <i>With a pick, a shovel, and a rake we built you a castle</i> <i>How does the chorus go cabrón*?</i> <i>Immigrants we get the job done!</i></p>	<p>Who do you think is the intended audience of this piece? What is the overall message being sent? How do you know?</p>

**Stop Trump** 🇺🇸 @StopTrump2020 · Sep 16

A history lesson for people who call themselves "real" Americans...  
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**North America prior to illegal immigration**

The map shows various Native American tribes and empires across North America, including the Inuit, Cree Federation, Huron Supremacy, Blackfoot Confederacy, Iroquois Confederacy, Great Sioux Nation, Cherokee Sovereignty, Aztec Empire, and Olmec Kingdom. It also labels the Aztec Calendar Stone (approx. 2015 A).

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**Rep. Joe Kennedy III** @RepJoeKennedy · Sep 5

**#DREAMers** embody America's story: diverse, determined & hopeful. Instead of rewarding that patriotism, **@POTUS** is abandoning them. **#DACA**

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The White House Retweeted

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