Progress and Limits

Weigh changes in voting rights and immigration policy.

9-12.US2.46 "Evaluate the progress of civil rights and immigration issues in recent United States history."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two gains and circle two limits in the passage. Number one gain and one related limit with the same number to show a pair you could use to judge progress.

What Counts as Progress?

1. At a polling place, the right to vote depends on more than a law on paper. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 banned discriminatory voting practices and required certain places with histories of discrimination to get federal approval before changing election rules. Black voter registration rose in the South. In 2013, the Supreme Court struck down the formula used to identify places needing that approval. The decision did not erase the voting law, but it made one federal safeguard inoperative.

2. The rules for entering and staying in the country also changed. The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 ended a quota system that favored immigrants from northern and western Europe. Immigration from Asia, Latin America, and elsewhere later grew. In 1986, a federal law offered legal status to many undocumented immigrants who met its requirements, while imposing penalties on employers who knowingly hired workers without authorization. Both laws opened opportunities, yet neither ended debates over fair access or future unauthorized immigration.

3. In 2012, DACA began offering some people brought to the United States as children temporary protection from deportation and permission to work. Applicants had to meet strict conditions, and the policy did not provide citizenship. These changes show why progress needs more than a yes or no answer. Compare who gained an opportunity with who remained excluded. Then consider whether a protection was permanent, limited, or weakened by a later decision.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Voting Rights Act expand access, and what happened to one of its safeguards in 2013?

2. How did the 1965 and 1986 immigration laws open opportunities for different groups?

3. Why was DACA progress for some people but not a complete solution?

4. Which offered more secure status, the 1986 law or DACA? Support your judgment with a detail from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 55 to 75 word public comment judging whether progress has been even or uneven. Use one voting detail and one immigration detail from the passage, then ask a question leaders should consider.

Progress and Limits

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two gains and circle two limits in the passage. Number one gain and one related limit with the same number to show a pair you could use to judge progress. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Voting Rights Act expand access, and what happened to one of its safeguards in 2013?	**The act banned discriminatory voting practices, and Black voter registration rose in the South. A 2013 ruling made the federal approval safeguard inoperative.**
2	How did the 1965 and 1986 immigration laws open opportunities for different groups?	**The 1965 law ended quotas favoring northern and western Europe. The 1986 law offered legal status to many undocumented immigrants who qualified.**
3	Why was DACA progress for some people but not a complete solution?	**It offered eligible people temporary protection from deportation and permission to work, but not citizenship.**
4	Which offered more secure status, the 1986 law or DACA? Support your judgment with a detail from the passage.	**The 1986 law offered legal status to people who qualified. DACA offered only temporary protection and did not provide citizenship.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Progress has been uneven. The Voting Rights Act helped raise Black voter registration in the South, but a 2013 Supreme Court decision made a federal safeguard inoperative. Immigration policy also expanded opportunities: a 1986 law offered legal status to many people who qualified. Yet DACA provides only temporary protection, not citizenship. Leaders should ask: How can future policies make access and legal status more secure?

Accept judgments that use accurate passage evidence and explain a gain alongside a limit. For the public comment, accept a different question if it follows logically from the evidence.