Test Your Knowledge

Case 1

I am Pedro Lopez. My birthday is February 16, 1996. I live with the crew at an Organic Farm. I think it's called Harry's. I came on March 4 to pick tomatoes. Before coming here, I was in Valdosta, Georgia for 4 months, but couldn't find work. A friend told me there was work here.

I'm traveling by myself. My parents' names are Eduardo and Carmen Lopez. I was born in Santiago, Guatemala. I went to school to 2nd grade.

I want to learn English, but I work long hours. My only day off is Sunday. Lately, I've been getting headaches when I try to watch TV.

The crew leader said there is work here until June. My friend said we should go to Estero next to pick peppers.

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Case 2

My name is Ana Martin. I came here on March 2 to pick strawberries. I also cook for the other workers at the camp where I live. I had to leave my home in Brownsville, Texas to get away from my step-father. He was always threatening me because he said I wasn't working enough to help my family. I couldn't take it anymore and my cousin said I could find work in the fields in Florida. I'm 17 years old, by birthday is April 16, 1998. I dropped out of school in 10th grade back in Brownsville. I wasn't a bad student – most of my grades were Cs, but I couldn't keep up with school work and working to help my family.

I would like to go back to school someday. Maybe I could work at a daycare since I like kids. Sometimes I watch the crew leader's two little kids.

My mom's name is Gloria Martin. I don't know my real dad's name. I don't want to give you my stepfather's name.

I don't have to cook for the workers on Tuesday nights and I'm usually home on Saturday afternoons.

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Case 3

I am Belen Gonzalez. I came with my husband from Mexico two summers ago to detassel corn. Before the end of the season, I found out I was pregnant and my husband and I decided to stay until the baby was born. We have decided to stay here.

I finished my 2nd year of bachillerato (11th grade). I'm 20 years old.

I want to be a good mom to my son, Josue. But, I know I will have to go back to work soon to help support my family. I do not speak English well, but, I want to learn.

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Case 4

I am Luis Arroyo, I moved on August 15, 2014. My wife, Brenda and baby, Diego, moved to join me on September 20, 2014. I was able to find work cutting fern two weeks later on October 1, 2014. We moved to find work in ferns. My wife stayed with her sister in South Carolina until I could get housing. We lived with Brenda's sister for two years and we both worked picking vegetables. Brenda stopped working when Diego was born.

I went to school in Honduras to 5th grade. Both my wife and I are 20 years old and Diego is one year old.

When we were in South Carolina, we were taking English classes two nights a week. We learned a lot. I would like to get a GED and maybe settle in Florida.

Test Your Knowledge

Case 5

I am Pierre Clauvil; I'm 18 years old. I moved here two weeks ago from Hammonton, NJ to irrigate the orange trees. I want to stay here until the blueberry harvest is ready then I plan to go back to NJ at the end of the summer. I am staying in the camp here, but I live with my older brother back in NJ. I dropped out of high school in 11th grade because I failed the state tests and I needed to work.

Now I want to go back to school to get my high school diploma. I have a friend that says I can use their computer if I want to take classes online. Right now I have Sundays and Friday afternoons free.