

## “TRUE AMERICANISM”

By Theodore Roosevelt  
(1894)

### EXCERPT #1

... The mighty tide of immigration to our shores has brought in its train [path] much of good and much of evil; and whether the good or the evil shall predominate [win] depends mainly on whether these newcomers . . . cease to be European, and become Americans like the rest of us. . .

### EXCERPT #2

... But where [when] immigrants or the sons of immigrants, do not heartily and in good faith [honestly] throw in their lot [join] with us, but cling to the speech, the customs, the ways of life, and the habits of thought of the Old World which they have left, they . . . harm both themselves and us. If they remain alien [foreign] elements, unassimilated, and with interests separate from ours, they are mere obstructions [obstacles] to the current of our national life . . .

### EXCERPT #3

... It is an immense [very big] benefit to the European immigrant to change him into an American citizen. To bear [have] the name of American is to bear the most honorable of titles; and whoever does not so believe has no business to bear the name at all, and if he comes from Europe, the sooner he goes back there the better. . .

Roosevelt, Theodore. “True Americanism.” *True Americanism, Being Four Essays Selected From the Collection Entitled ‘American Ideals’*. New York and London: G. P. Putnam’s Sons (The Knickerbocker Press, 1897). pp. 47-49.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### **WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA???**

**DIRECTIONS:** Read each excerpt. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> column, write the 3 most important words from that excerpt. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> column, summarize the meaning of the excerpt in one sentence, using your own words.

	<b>3 Most Important Words</b>	<b>In Your Own Words</b>
<b>EXCERPT #1</b>		
<b>EXCERPT #2</b>		
<b>EXCERPT #3</b>		

Did Theodore Roosevelt believe immigrants should keep their old European cultures, keep some of their old culture and adopt some of American culture, or completely give up their old culture and adopt American culture?

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