

Immigrant Moderator Guide

2021 Pew Research Center Asian American Focus Groups Study

Note: The following instructions were given to moderators who led focus group discussions among *immigrant participants* in the Center's 2021 Asian American Focus Group Study, conducted across the United States from Aug. 4 to Oct. 14, 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all focus groups were conducted virtually. Each focus group had four participants and the discussions lasted for 120 minutes.

Study purpose: To understand the perceptions, opinions, beliefs, and attitudes of Asian American immigrants about their experience in American society.

Intended Outcomes: To gather stories about immigration, identity, integration, discrimination and representation among Asian Americans.

Reminders for observers:

1. Make sure to always mute yourself during the virtual meeting.
2. Every moment of every group is not productive. There are transition questions. Bridging new questions and guiding respondents to the right theme of the discussion.
3. The true value of a focus group is to highlight authentic perspectives, opinions, beliefs, and attitudes of the group.

ROADMAP OF ACTIVITIES PLANNED

Category of Information to Be Covered	Approx. Time Set Aside
Stage I. Welcome/Ground Rules/Self-introduction	8 min
Stage II. Immigration or Refugee Experience	10 min
Stage III. Integration & Economic Mobility	25 min
Stage VI: Writing Exercise on Identity	15 min
Stage V: Identity Discussion	20 min
Stage VI: Discrimination discussion	20 min

Stage VII: Asian American representation	15 min
Stage VIII: Final discussion	5 min
Closure	2 min
TOTAL TIME ALLOWED	120 min

Moderator's Guide

For areas where we note [co-ethnic], [origin country] or [ethnicity], please replace them with the specific information of the focus group.

STAGE I

Welcome/Ground Rules/Self-introduction

[8 min]

- INTRO** Hello, my name is _____, and I will be the moderator for today's discussion for the next 120 minutes.
- AGENDA** You will be doing several things today: participating in a group discussion, occasionally doing some "writing" and looking at some materials. There are no right or wrong answers in the discussion.
- Moderator Information** _____
- ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** I want to thank everyone for joining this virtual meeting today.
- DISCLOSURES**
- 1. FACILITY SETTING (virtual):**
 - Feel free to unmute yourself and talk. If more than one of you want to talk at the same time, I will start with one person to go to the other.
 - 2. The session is being recorded and this is just to help me remember all the details in our discussion. I may go "ah...there are a few great points in a segment, and I cannot recall all the details". This recording will allow me to write a more accurate report about today.**

3. There are other research members and an interpreter observing this group. They are part of the research team and are there to help me along, in case I have missed anything.

PERMISSION

At any time, you can go use the restroom or get a drink. I ask that only one person steps away from their camera at one time.

GUIDELINES

There are some rules for this group to make an efficient session:

- Please talk one at a time.
- Please talk in a voice at least as loud as mine.
- Avoid distractions as much as possible. The more you can focus on our conversation, the more we all benefit.
- I am interested in hearing from each of you as we move through our conversation. However, you don't have to comment on every question.
- It is OK to simply agree with what someone has already said.
- It is also OK to disagree with what others have said. There are no wrong answers. Please share what is on your mind.
- I would like to request your assistance in helping everyone have equal "airtime", so that no one talks too little or too much.

INTROS

PLEASE INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO THE GROUP AND TELL US:

- First name **only** (or the name you like to be called)
- What country did you originate from?
- Tell me one thing you like about where you live currently.

Moderator's INTRO

STAGE IV**White Board Exercise on Identity**

[15 min]

We know that there are many people who call themselves [ethnicity, i.e. Cambodian]. They share many things in common but also have their unique backgrounds. (**Moderator note:** Instruct participants to write answers into chat first and then you will hold a discussion. Keep responses hidden between participants so that they can write freely and then just share what they would like to.)

A. Jot down the first three things that come to mind of what it means to be [ethnicity, i.e. Cambodian] in the United States like yourself.

B. Jot down the first three things that come to mind of what it means to be Asian in the United States.

<u>[Co-Ethnic]</u>	
<u>Asian</u>	

Discussion

8. What did you write in your first question? What does it mean to be [ethnicity] in the U.S.?

PROBE: What is the difference between the term “[ethnicity]” and “[ethnicity] American” to you?

PROBE: What does [ethnicity] culture/language/heritage mean to you? [**Moderator note:**

PROBE more on how respondent define certain terms or emotions.]

PROBE: How has it changed from the time when you first arrived in the U.S.?

9. What did you write in your second question? What does it mean to be Asian in the U.S.?

PROBE: What is the difference between the term “Asian” and “Asian American” to you?

PROBE: What does Asian culture/language/heritage mean to you? [**Moderator note:** PROBE more on how respondent define certain terms or emotions.]

STAGE V

Identity discussion

[20 min]

10. In the context of these terms we’ve been discussing, “Asian”, “Asian American”, “[ethnic group]”, “[ethnic group] American” how do you think of yourself?

PROBE: What are the situations or contexts in which you may identify more with one than the other, if any?

PROBE: How would you prefer people to identify you?

PROBE: If you have kids, would you describe your children to be [ethnic group] or [ethnic group]-American, or American?

PROBE: (if they don’t have kids) How would you describe those who were born in the U.S.?

PROBE: What other identities do you strongly identify as? How about gender?

11. How do you feel about the term “Asian American”?

PROBE: When you think about “Asian”, what particular group or groups are you thinking about? [Moderator: if not mentioned, bring up “East Asian, South Asian or Southeast Asian”; if the respondents don’t know the definition of these terms, we can simply ask about detailed Asian origin countries.]

PROBE: [If not discussed during Q15] When do you use the term, if ever, Asian American to describe yourself? [**Moderator note:** Want to understand who they see as Asian American]

PROBE: How do you feel when you see stories about Asian Americans in the news? [**Moderator note:** if the answers were about negative stories, **PROBE** for positive ones: How about positive news?” and vice versa. Want to understand when they see news about another Asian ethnic group if they think it affects them as well.]

PROBE: What are some of the benefits of being seen as Asian American rather than [ethnic group]? What are the disadvantages?

STAGE VIII

Final Discussion

[5 min]

We have discussed many topics today: economic situation, immigration, discrimination, identity, and representation. There are many more we cannot cover today but may be important to you and your community. Now imagine that you were to explain to a non-Asian person what it means to be [ethnic group] in the U.S. today. What would you tell them? Please take a moment to write this down in the chat and then we will share out.

Closure

[2 min]

As the end of our session approaches, I would like to thank you for sharing your stories and opinions on various issues we talked about today. I learned a lot about your unique experiences. This will help me to write my final report. Thanks again and have a wonderful day!