

### Questions for reading: The ordeal of immigration

- “The ordeal of immigration”, Beck
  - <http://www.theatlantic.com/past/politics/immigrat/beckf.htm>
- “How Wausau’s immigration fears failed to come true”, Mentzler
  - <http://www.wausaudailyherald.com/story/opinion/2014/12/07/mentzer-wausau-got-immigration-fears/19969617/>

The first article is an infamous and influential piece about immigration and Wisconsin, with direct relevance to language. The fame and influence are partially discussed in the second piece.

### Questions about Beck

1. How does Beck portray the history of Hmong settlement in Wausau? And Wausau’s past history before that? What major gaps in his history do you recognize?
2. List the major problems Beck sees with the presence of refugees and what evidence he gives for each.
3. What in particular does he say about language?
4. What does Beck see as the future of the city? What does he want to see happen?
5. How do you understand Beck’s motivations for writing this piece? To answer this, google Beck to learn a bit about him. (He’s also discussed briefly in the second article.)
6. Over the history of Wisconsin beginning when English speakers started coming, are there other ‘ordeals of immigration’ that you can name? How do they compare to this situation? How have they played out historically?

### Questions about Mentzler

1. What is the starting point for this article? The reason for writing it?
2. How does Mentzler see Wausau at the time when Beck wrote?
3. How does he characterize Beck’s piece? And Beck himself?
4. What does Mentzler argue triggered the problems? What kind of evidence does he present?