



# Introduction

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Name: Robert Louie

Country of origin: Hong Kong





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Background: Chinese

Family: Wife and two sons

Description of Occupations in America:

1. Home renovation (1995-1997)
2. Jewelry salesman (1997-Present)

# Introduction

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Why he came to America: For better job and educational opportunities for himself and his children





# THEMES – (Immigration)

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- Immigrated from Hong Kong to America in 1995
- **1. Better educational opportunities**
- - schools in Hong Kong were extremely competitive
- - “there’s always so much pressure” on students to find tutoring and extracurricular activities at a really young age
- - “tuition is really expensive, but there’s no financial aid” so it was hard to afford a college education
- - wanted differently for his kids; said he hopes his children finds what they like and pursue that
- - in America, there are many more colleges
- **2. Better job opportunities**
- - part of the jewelry business in Hong Kong
- - mobility wasn’t easy because there was few upper-level positions and competition was high
- - came to America to find a better job



# (Economic Development)

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- After 9/11, businesses became stiller and calmer and he had fewer customers
- Jewelry store rent increases around every 5 years



## (Community)

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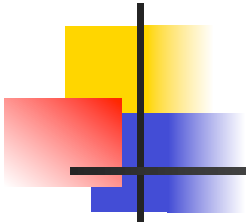
- Is part of a close-knit community among the jewelers in Chinatown
- Mainly does business with Chinese people; rarely tourists
- Doesn't interact as much with Chinatown residents



# Conclusion

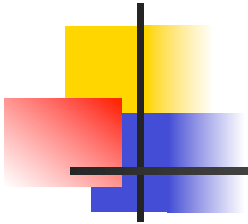
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- We not only learned about Robert, but we also learned about the changes in Chinatown in the past few decades.
- There was a dramatic change in Chinatown over the past 10 years. According to what Robert said in the interview, the economy of the United States has changed a lot. In the past, when Robert first came to this country, people didn't have to be skilled to find a good job. But now, people without skills can't find a well-paying job in this country. From this, we can see the job opportunities, which show the economic changes, have been decreasing in this country.
- Another thing we learn is 9/11's effect on Chinatown. After 9/11, less and less visitors and tourists came to visit Chinatown, so the economic system of Chinatown worsened.



- Our interviewee works in the jewelry business, which I think is a stable but competitive business. According to what I know, there are many jewelry shops in Chinatown. It's very hard to earn money when many other people are doing the same business as yours around you. Jewelry shops are good and stable businesses, but it will become competitive in Chinatown.
- Chinatown is a very popular place, where there many visitors and tourists go. This makes the businesses in Chinatown more stable, because usually visitors would spend money on gifts that they will bring back to home.
- I think my interviewee's business will be doing well.





- As a Chinese person who lived in Chinatown, where there are many people that I can communicate with in Chinese, I hope Chinatown will become a more popular place. Although I really hate crowded places, I hope more and more tours would come to Chinatown, so our businesses can be more stabilized.
- Another thing I hope for Chinatown future is that the sanitary situations will improve. There are many streets where garbage is put on each side, which creates awful smells in Chinatown. I hope people will clean them up so we can leave a good impression for tourists to come back to visit Chinatown Again.



# What can we do?

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- In order to improve and clean up the streets of Chinatown, we can post some signs that warn the local shop owners not to put garbage on the street, and clean up remains such as plastic bags and other trash. If tours see the dirty side of Chinatown, they might not come back again, so we can't keep businesses in Chinatown going.
- We can come back and contribute to the businesses in Chinatown. Young people who know Chinatown can bring their businesses back into the community since they understand the neighborhood's needs.
- Document immigration stories! It is important to record the stories of people who live and work in Chinatown so we know what we can do to help and improve in the future.