

Sample TOPIC STATEMENT

Name of Student
Assignment 1
December 7, 2007

Topic Statement: Catholic immigrants to Brooklyn found welcoming churches and church schools which offered help in overcoming the adjustments to life in the United States.

From its earliest days the Catholic Church in the Borough of Brooklyn provided many opportunities for immigrants to work and go to school. But it was not always easy.

After the French and the Dutch arrived and, along with the English who followed them, Catholicism remained a religion of suspicion as both groups restricted the practice of Catholicism. (Catholic Church. Diocese of Brooklyn p9)

Finally, after the American Revolution religious freedom was granted in New York but included was a requirement to abandon any allegiance to foreign powers. (Catholic Church. Diocese of Brooklyn p10)

First Catholic church in Brooklyn (Catholic Church. Diocese of Brooklyn p13)

From its earliest period the education of immigrant children was a priority. (Berrol 423; Brown 219; Catholic Church. Diocese of Brooklyn 231)

Works Cited

Berrol, Selma Cantor. Immigrants at School, New York City, 1898-1914. New York: Arno Press, 1978, 1967.

Brown, Mary Elizabeth. Churches, Communities, and Children : Italian Immigrants in the Archdiocese of New York, 1880-1945. Staten Island: CMS, 1995.

Catholic Church. Diocese of Brooklyn. Diocese of Immigrants : The Brooklyn Catholic Experience, 1853-2003. Strasbourg, France: Éditions du Signe, 2004.