**The Immigrant Experience – Ellis Island**

**DIRECTIONS: To answer the following questions, use information from the class presentation + the video shown in class.**

**PART I**

**Many immigrants to America were torn between their desire to maintain their cultural identity and their wish to be assimilated as Americans.**

1. **In 1898-1914, what major factors helped immigrants hold on to “old country” ways?**

1. **What factors led them to become Americanized?**
2. **Does that tension between “old country” and “new” exist in American society today? (YES!) Give examples of “immigrant problems or issues” today.**

**PART II**

**Imagine yourself as an immigrant at Ellis Island in 1900. Write a letter to a friend in the old country about your experiences from the time you left home until the moment when you wait to be cleared for entry into the United States.**