



## **Script: Why a Wall Won't Stop Immigration**

The illegal immigration is out of control. Our borders are unprotected. We need to build the wall...

(Spanish Speaking)

Building a wall would actually increase the number of illegal immigrants in America.

What? How could it possibly?

Here I'll show you. Just building a wall would be practically impossible. This is where it would be. It would have to stretch over 2,000 miles of rough terrain, cutting through mountains, rivers villages, and even people's homes. And all that destruction is monstrously expensive. Just building the wall would cost between fifteen and twenty five billion dollars.

It would easily be one of the single most expensive pieces of infrastructure in American history, costing as much as 20 Hoover Dams or NASA's entire annual budget. Not to mention the astronomical cost of staffing and maintaining the wall, which taxpayers like you and your children will be stuck paying forever. I paid for the wall, my father's father paid for the wall and one day you will pay for the wall because this is wall World. Even just faking the wall for our show is prohibitively expensive. Looks like our CGI budget ran out.

Okay yes it may be expensive but that doesn't change the fact that once we build it, it will work.

Not like you think. Increasing security at the border will never stop illegal immigration.

Why not? No one's getting past me.

Yes they are because it's estimated that between 27 and 40 percent of all undocumented immigrants in America came here on planes.

I forgot about planes.

These immigrants didn't sneak over the border they came here legally through passport control, then just overstayed their visas. And guess what? A border wall is not gonna stop them because... Reminder: Planes can fly over walls.

You fools! You forgot about planes! We always forget about planes!

Even by your estimate of visa overstays, the wall would still stop about half of America's 11 million illegal immigrants.

No it wouldn't, because of a little something called circular flow. Here I'll show you. For decades, immigration to the US was a circular flow. It would come work for a bit and then after they were done, go home to their families. Meet Douglas Nancy.

Thanks Adam my arms are getting pretty tired waiting for my cue.

He's a professor of Princeton and a pioneering researcher on this topic

When the Reagan, Bush and Clinton administration's drastically increased border enforcement in response to public opinion, they stopped that circular flow.

Not by keeping people out but by keeping people in.

As it got harder and harder to go back and forth, people crossing the border decided they were much better off just staying in the US.

If I go back to Mexico now he won't let me back in the US. I guess I'll just stay here in Tucson.

Ironically this increase in border enforcement caused the number of undocumented immigrants living in the United States to skyrocket by two hundred and forty eight percent.

It's counterintuitive but building a wall wouldn't stop people from coming in. It would actually stop them from going back. In fact the whole idea of building a border wall is misguided. The Mexican economy is doing quite well right now and population growth has slowed way down so there's not much pressure to immigrate. The number of illegal border crossings is actually at an all-time low.

If you're a professor, then why are you in the desert.

I'm not. I'm a mirage.

Look we already have what has to be the most militarized border between any two nations at peace, so the real issue of immigration isn't the people coming in. The fact is they're already here. Nearly one out of every 30 people in America is an unauthorized immigrant. The only thing a wall stops is a discussion of actual solutions.

Yes, yes - My god Adam you're right, the wall isn't the answer.

Good I'm so glad I could help.

Millions of people are already here, we need to deport them. Yes deportation is the answer.

No.... (Spanish Speaking)