Crista Cowen Finding Your Immigrant Ancestors/ Ancestry

1. Where are they from?
2. When did they Immigrate?
3. Reasonably exhaustive search.
4. Family stories- not your only source of information.
5. Census Records for individual and children. Look at all the records. Starting in 1900 Census Records actually lists the day they immigrated and naturalizations date.
6. Death Records for an Individual.
7. Birth and death records of children- look at the entire family.
8. Naturalization documents-may lead to date and port of ship.
9. Alien registration- usually in time of war. Records are in National Archives.
10. Passport applications- Ancestry has those records.
11. Passenger Lists- 1600,1700,up to 1870 list only name of person and the ship also families traveled together usually not alone. There are also out bound passenger lists from Germany and England. Ancestry has those records
12. Analysis/ correlation of information- analyze the information.
13. Resolve conflicting evidence- who was the informant, consider the source, why was this record created, what questions were asked.
14. Become very familiar with the geography the area over time. Boundary’s

Change.

1. Become familiar with the political climate and social sentiment of the time
2. Who was most likely to have accurate information? Who was the informant
3. Soundly reasoned coherently written conclusion. Explain how the evidence led to the conclusion. Write it down and attach it to a person’s tree. How the evidence led to your conclusion. So 10 years later with new information it relates to your conclusion.
4. How do I find the ancestors in the old country.
5. What records exist for that location? Research on line for what kinds of records exists.
6. Where are those records located- Ancestry card catalog.
7. Cautions – Name might not be as unique as you think, it is for that time and place look for census records, church records, etc.
8. Be a researcher not a searcher.