SCENARIO # 1

* Maria entered the US two years ago by sneaking across the border from Mexico. She has been living in the United States since that time. One night she went to a nightclub with her friends. After dancing the night away she walked home with her female friend whom she dropped off at her apartment building before continuing the few blocks to her apartment. As Maria was unlocking her apartment door a man pushed her into her apartment and raped her. Maria reported the sexual assault to the police. She has been cooperating police during the investigation and prosecution of her assailant.
  + What is her status?
  + Is she eligible for a U visa?
  + If so, why?

SCENARIO # 2

Julie asks for your help. She tells you that she is afraid of her husband, Steve. She met Steve over the internet and fell in love with his kindness and caring. However, after she came to America on a fiancé visa and married Steve, he changed. She says that Steve has a good job and makes good money, but will not give her money for her expenses. She wants to visit her family back in her home country, but she cannot because Steve holds her passport in his safe and will not let her have it. Steve says that if Julie does not do as he says, he will have her deported. Whenever Julie asks Steve when he will file the rest of her papers so that Julie can get a job, Steve yells at her and threatens to hit her. Steve will not let Julie take English classes, so she tries to learn English by watching American television.

* + Did she enter legally?
  + What application might Julie want to file with CIS?
  + What must she prove?
  + How would she prove it?

SCENARIO # 3

Kara came to the US in 1995. She snuck across the border from Mexico with the help of a coyote. She has been working hard at a restaurant and sends money home to her family every week. She does not have papers, so she tries to avoid the police. Last week Kara was assaulted by her boyfriend. She ended up in the hospital, but refused to talk to the police when they came. She said that she does not want anyone to get in trouble.

* + What is her status?
  + Is she eligible for a U visa?
  + Why or why not?

SCENARIO # 4

Roberta came to the US in September 2004 from Guatemala. She entered the US using a tourist visa. However, Roberta came to the US because she felt it was her only choice. For twenty years Roberta had been married to a man who physically, sexually, and emotionally abused her daily. Her husband had been a local governmental official who had friends all over the country. When Roberta threatened to leave her husband, he stated that it did not matter where she went that he would find her and have her killed. Roberta sought help from the local authorities, but to no avail. In desperation, she decided to leave her children and her belongings behind and seek refuge in the US.

* + Did she enter legally?
  + What application might Roberta want to file with CIS?
  + Are there any deadlines to file an application?
  + What must she prove?

How would she prove it?