Over the last several years, young immigrant rights activists have increasingly circulated written personal narratives as a political strategy. These written narratives can be found in anthologies such as *Living “Illegal”: The Human Face of Unauthorized Immigration* and in essays such as “My Life as an Undocumented Immigrant” published in the *New York Times* in 2011 by Pulitzer-Prize-winning journalist Jose Antonio Vargas. In these so-called “coming out” stories, immigrant activists narrate the emotional and life-changing experience of discovering their undocumented status and use the public disclosure of that status as a form of political and cultural agency. These writers often express grief over their lost sense of belonging, the fear and shame they feel about their legal status, and their sense of pride and power at disclosing this knowledge. This presentation focuses on written stories of immigrants “coming out of the shadows”—an activist genre that expresses and negotiates the affective and emotional economies of immigration, visibility, and citizenship. Analyzing several different kinds of “coming out” stories, I trace the genre’s rhetorical form and affective structure. Along the way, I develop an idea of genre based in affect/emotion, discuss writing as a technology of visibility and social mobility, and illuminate the way unauthorized immigrant youth are queering structures of feeling about national belonging and citizenship.