

## ASSIGNMENT

Your assignment is to write a reflective essay explaining your cultural identity.

**Planning/Prewriting: Take time to make a plan for your essay.**

- How will you generate ideas about aspects of your culture that might help convey your sense of identity?
- How does your sense of cultural identity compare to that of your parents, your peers, or even strangers?
- How can a cultural conflict—either internal or external—clarify how your cultural identity influences your perspective?
- How might you use a particular cultural element (food, language, clothing, etc.) as a metaphor or central idea to focus your essay?
- What will you include in a preliminary outline of an organizational structure?

**Drafting and Revising: Compose your reflective essay.**

- How will you use your prewriting and outline to be sure you include all the components identified in your organizational structure, including an effective introduction and conclusion?
- How can you and your writing group peers use the Scoring Guide to help you note areas in need of improvement such as cohesion of ideas, organizational structure, or use of language?
- How will you ensure that you make necessary changes to the draft as you refine your ideas?
- How can you revise for purposeful and clear use of language, including syntax patterns such as parallel structure and phrases?

**Editing and Publishing: Prepare a final draft for publication.**

- Which resources will you consult (dictionary, thesaurus, spell-check, grammar handbook, style guide) to ensure grammatically correct sentences, appropriate punctuation, correct spelling, and proper text citation?

## Reflection

After completing this Embedded Assessment, think about how you went about accomplishing this task, and respond to the following:

- Which aspects of your cultural identity were you already aware of before you began this unit, and which did you discover through your study?
- What are some of the different cultural heritages represented in your class that you became aware of through class discussions or shared writing?

# Writing About My Cultural Identity

## SCORING GUIDE

Scoring Criteria	Exemplary	Proficient	Emerging	Incomplete
<b>Ideas</b>	<p>The essay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>has a clear and strongly maintained central idea (e.g., internal/external conflict or central metaphor/concept) to focus the essay</li> <li>uses a range of well-chosen, relevant, and sufficient evidence to create a vivid sense of personal cultural identity.</li> </ul>	<p>The essay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>has an adequately maintained central idea to focus the topic</li> <li>uses a sufficient range of evidence to develop the explanation of cultural identity.</li> </ul>	<p>The essay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>has an unclear or insufficiently maintained central idea and lacks focus</li> <li>uses vague, irrelevant, or insufficient evidence to develop the explanation of cultural identity.</li> </ul>	<p>The essay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>is not coherent and does not clearly maintain a central focus</li> <li>provides little or no evidence to support or develop an explanation of cultural identity.</li> </ul>
<b>Structure</b>	<p>The writer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses an effective organizational strategy that creates clarity and cohesion</li> <li>introduces ideas smoothly, links them logically, and provides a satisfying conclusion</li> <li>uses appropriate and varied transitions.</li> </ul>	<p>The writer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses an adequate organizational strategy that creates a sense of completeness</li> <li>introduces ideas, links them adequately, and provides a conclusion</li> <li>uses some varied transitions.</li> </ul>	<p>The writer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses an inconsistent or confusing organization</li> <li>does not introduce, link, and/or conclude ideas</li> <li>uses weak, repetitive, or insufficient transitions.</li> </ul>	<p>The writer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>does not organize ideas clearly</li> <li>does not link ideas</li> <li>uses weak or no transitions.</li> </ul>
<b>Use of Language</b>	<p>The writer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses precise language and appropriate vocabulary to create a distinctive tone or voice</li> <li>uses parallel structure and various types of phrases to convey meaning or add variety and interest</li> <li>demonstrates strong command of conventions of grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.</li> </ul>	<p>The writer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses appropriate vocabulary and generally maintains an appropriate tone/voice</li> <li>uses parallel structure and various types of phrases correctly</li> <li>demonstrates adequate command of conventions; some minor errors in grammar, usage, capitalization, or spelling do not interfere with meaning.</li> </ul>	<p>The writer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses simple or inappropriate vocabulary that does not maintain consistent tone/voice</li> <li>does not use parallel structure and/or varied types of phrases correctly</li> <li>demonstrates partial or insufficient command of conventions; errors in grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation, and/or spelling interfere with meaning.</li> </ul>	<p>The writer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses vague, imprecise vocabulary and does not maintain consistent or appropriate tone/voice</li> <li>uses no parallel structure or phrases, or uses them incorrectly</li> <li>demonstrates little command of conventions; numerous errors in grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation, and/or spelling interfere with meaning.</li> </ul>