

Name: _____

Language, Gender, and Culture

At the end of this unit, you will be writing an essay responding to the following prompt: "How has language, gender, and culture developed your identity from childhood years to the present?"

In preparation for writing this essay, the following questions will help you gather your thoughts in relation to the formation of your identity and the texts we have read/viewed and analyzed in this unit. For full credit, answer all parts to each question. Ask questions if you have any.

1. How many languages do you speak? What is your primary language? Do you speak different forms of the same language? If so, which ones?

2. How do you feel language has formed your identity? How might your identity be influenced by the language, and the dialect of the language that you speak?

3. Do you feel the way you speak is influenced by your gender? What are some ways that you speak or words/phrases that you use that are culturally tied to your gender? Explain your answer.

Name: _____

4. Do you feel that there are different gender roles or expectations for different cultures? What are the expectations your culture has on you because of your gender? Do you feel that you follow these gender roles and meet these expectations? Why or why not? Explain your response.

5. Considering that mainstream American society and culture may clash with some of our home cultures, how do you feel your identity is influenced by the American mainstream media? Do you feel your identity has been formed by more than one culture? Explain.

6. Now that you are more aware of the hidden messages promoted by the media and society, how do you feel you have been influenced by the media? What are some thoughts and beliefs you hold that are in line with the gender roles and expectations put forth by the media? Explain.
