PURPOSE:

This essay is designed to allow you to reflect on languages and their impact on the individual as well as the world. We all use some form of language for communication with others, to express ourselves, to understand our world. Language provides definitions as well as sets parameters of understanding and these shape our understanding of ourselves, others, and the world. This essay, at its core, is really about how languages have affected you.

TOPIC (choose one of the following):

1.) Describe a time when you felt the benefits of being bilingual. How did your ability to speak more than one language help you in this situation? What was the result? How might this outcome have been different if you only spoke one language?

2.) Persuade the reader on the benefits of bilingualism. Using specific examples, what might be your argument to convince someone that speaking multiple languages is an asset? What might people gain by speaking more than one language?

3.) Explain how being bilingual has shaped your understanding of the world. How has speaking more than one language allowed you to see things from a perspective that others might not have? How has language changed your understanding of yourself?

WRITING:

**Each essay will demonstrate a thorough knowledge and capable practice of the target language.** Following standard conventions of the language, the writing will be assessed on the author’s use of vocabulary, grammar, structure, organization, and tone. Please see the scoring rubric for additional information on how the essay is assessed.

LENGTH AND FORMAT:

This will vary depending on which seal you are attempting:

For the **Seal of Biliteracy** your essay should be 400-500 words, typed,  double-spaced, in MLA style (12pt. font, 1' margins.)

For the **Distinguished Seal of Biliteracy** your essay should be 700-900 words, typed, double-spaced, in MLA style (12pt. font, 1' margins.)