

## Step 2: Language and Culture Questionnaire:

**Directions:** Complete the following Language and Culture Questionnaire. Thorough reflection and responses to the questionnaire will help develop your Language Portfolio in a way that can be used in the world outside of the classroom. Respond honestly and critically to the questions.

**Include this document in Part III (Evidence section) of the Portfolio.**

Question:	Your reflective answer: (Consider your social and workplace environments)
What language(s) do you use? Give examples of in what context and/or how you use this language or languages.	I am a native English speaker and communicate with people at school/outside and my dad with it, but I speak Mandarin to my mom at home. I'd say I speak both languages around the same amount as I usually never speak English to my mom. Additionally, when I talk to my relatives on my mom's side, I speak Mandarin to them. I am able to utilize both languages to a proficient degree.
Identify your language phase for each language you use. (Use the Language Phases Chart from Step One)	For English, since it is my primary language, I think I would be at phase 6 for all areas as I've grown up my whole life learning in English. However, for Mandarin, I am not that good in reading or writing, but proficient enough in listening and speaking. So, I believe that I would be at phase 5 for communicating with others and phase 2-3 for reading and writing because I am only able to do those in limited situations.
What can you do and not do with your language(s)? Please refer to each language if you speak more than one.	With Mandarin, I am able to communicate with others on a pretty proficient level as I can respond and understand what someone is saying to me. My writing and reading skills are not as good. I can read and write very minimally and understand only the most basic characters. But, I can read pinyin and zhuyin to a proficient level. I can read Chinese characters only if they have zhuyin on the side.
What is your cultural background? If you belong to more than one culture, be sure to consider the multiple cultures that make up who you are.	My mother is from Taiwan and my dad is from Korea and they both immigrated here when they were in their 20s. But, I was born and raised here in Oregon so my nationality is American, but my race is Asian. I have experienced a life where my Asian heritage has had a big impact on my life as my parents are very traditional.

What language(s) are spoken in your culture(s)?	Mandarin and the traditional Taiwanese dialect (hokkien) is spoken in Taiwan. I can understand some hokkien and speak even less amounts of it. Korean is spoken in Korea, but I never learned it as a child, so I communicate to my dad in English.
Do you have friends from a different cultural background? With which cultures different from your own are you most familiar?	Yes, I have many other friends who are also Asian and from a wide variety of cultures and backgrounds. I feel the most familiar to the culture of Japan, because I go back to Taiwan every summer and there are a lot of similarities between these two cultures. I feel like I am able to experience some aspects of that culture when I go back and visit there.
How do you feel when you encounter different cultural experiences? Provide a specific example.	I feel very excited to see how they work because it's always interesting and fun to learn about new cultures.
What do you believe is the relationship between language and culture?	I believe that language is based upon how a culture works. Different cultures have different social norms and that reflects how their language works. For example, in Japan, there is a big emphasis on politeness within society, thus they have different forms of referring to people who are older than them or those who are higher in power. Same goes for Mandarin and Korean.
Why is learning another language so important in today's world?	Nowadays, the world is getting more diverse and we are seeing an influx of people from other countries visiting new places. America has become more diverse, so knowing another language would be handy for a lot of people.
What language(s) other than your own have you previously studied?	I have previously studied Spanish in school (1 year in middle school and 2 years in high school).

What language will you study in language development?	I am studying Mandarin Chinese.
Why have you chosen that specific language for language development?	I chose this language since I am already proficient in some parts of it and will be using it in my daily life. It would be useful to continue studying it so I don't forget it one day.
How do you think you will use your target language in the future? Consider ways that you might use your target language in your career area of interest.	In the future, I might want to go to Taiwan to study Pharmacy and go to med school, so I would need to be really proficient in Mandarin. Not only speaking and listening, but also reading and writing. I could build myself a future there too, if I was proficient enough.
What challenges do you feel you may encounter in your language studies?	Mandarin is a very hard language to learn, especially the characters. There are over 50,000 Chinese characters, but an average person will need to know only about 2,000-3,000. I have studied Mandarin before as I went to Chinese school, but I've forgotten most of what I have learned, but I do remember that learning and memorizing the characters are really hard because there's so many of them.
How will you meet these challenges?	I will practice them over and over again everyday until I feel that I have a solid memorization of them. Practicing is the only way I will be able to meet my goals.