## Guidelines

**Writing Prompt:**

The Commission on Language Learning of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, among other policy makers and influencers of educational policy, have claimed that the field of foreign language education in the U.S. is in crisis. Read the Executive Summary of the commission’s report and then answer the questions below. Use ideas and at least one quote from the source document to support your answers. You may, if you choose, draw from other sources also.

*America's Languages: Investing in Language Education for the 21st Century*

American Academy of Arts & Sciences Commission on Language Learning (2017)

[https://www.amacad.org/publication/americas-languages](https://www.amacad.org/publication/americas-languages)

**Prompt #1** (intended for applicants who intend to teach a foreign language in the U.S.):

In the U.S., very few students are reaching high levels of proficiency in languages other than English, and the numbers of programs and qualified teachers are decreasing. Based on the reading and your own experience and observations, what are the primary challenges facing the field of foreign language teaching in the U.S.? What do you think needs to be done so that many more students have access to effective foreign language instruction and develop enough proficiency to meet national and international needs?

**Prompt #2** (intended for applicants who intend to teach a foreign language outside the U.S.):

Most countries other than the U.S. have more extensive and rigorous language learning requirements than the U.S. education system, and students in those countries are more likely to become bilingual or multilingual. Based on the reading and your own experience and observations in at least one other country, how is the field of foreign language teaching there different from the U.S.? What are the primary challenges that face foreign language teachers and learners in your country? Given what you have experienced, observed, and learned in other countries, what do you think needs to happen in the U.S. to promote a more multilingual society?
Instructions: Respond to one of these two prompts in a well-written academic essay of about 1000 words. Your essay should use an appropriately academic style of writing. It should include a heading with your name and the date; a title; an introduction and conclusion; and a list of any sources you used, including the one provided above.

In the MAFLT Program, we use the American Psychological Association, 6th edition, as the guideline for citing sources, but you are not required to use that specific format for this paper. Whenever you use ideas and/or quotes from one of your sources (i.e., they are not your ideas or general knowledge), you must clearly show which ideas and words come from which sources and provide enough information so that your reader can easily locate those sources.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Professional Resources:
- ACTFL – American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages: http://www.actfl.org
- TESOL – Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages: http://www.tesol.org
- NFLRC – National Foreign Language Resource Centers – see listings, links, and resources for all of them at http://www.nflrc.org. See especially COERLL, CASLS, NHLRC, CULTR.
- MLA Language Map: http://www.mla.org/map_main.

Writing and Research:
- Library links to citation style guides, citation management software, tutorials, and related resources: https://www.lib.msu.edu/research/cite-resources/.
- Online Writing Lab at Purdue (the well-known and widely-used OWL):