



MAFLT Admissions

English Language Proficiency

Requesting a Waiver of Test Scores

Writing Sample Guidelines

Writing Prompt:

Is the field of world language education in crisis? 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. Download the commission's 2017 report from the link below, read the Executive Summary, and then answer the questions below based on that content and your own experience and ideas. **Choose Prompt 1 OR Prompt 2.**

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>

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?



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Instructions:

Respond to **one** of the two prompts in a well-written essay of about 1000 words (2 pages single-spaced or 4 pages double-spaced). Use facts, arguments, and at least one quote from the America's Languages report to support your answers. Referencing other sources is optional.

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, published materials, websites, etc.

In the MAFLT Program, we use the American Psychological Association, 7th edition, as the guideline for citing sources. You are not required to use that specific format for this paper. However, as with any other writing you produce, when you use ideas and/or quotes from one of your sources (i.e., they are not your ideas or general knowledge), you must use appropriate citation practices. In-text citations and reference lists should clearly show which ideas and words come from which sources and provide enough information so that your reader can easily locate those sources. For support on this topic, you can refer to the Writing and Research links below.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

English Language Proficiency Requirements at MSU

- MSU Graduate School > English Language Competency: <https://grad.msu.edu/english-language-competency>

Professional Resources

- America's Languages Portal: <https://www.americaslanguages.org/>
- ACTFL – American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages: <https://www.actfl.org>
- Council of Europe Language Policy Portal: <https://www.coe.int/lang>
- Coalition for Community-Based Heritage Language Programs – International Guidelines: <https://heritagelanguageschools.org/coalition/article/249073>
- TESOL – Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages: <https://www.tesol.org>
- NFLRC – National Foreign Language Resource Centers – see listings, links, and resources for all of them at <https://www.nflrc.org>. As of 2022, MSU is the home of the National Less-Commonly-Taught Language Resource Center: <https://nlrc.msu.edu>.
- MLA Language Map: http://www.mla.org/map_main.

Writing and Research

- MSU Library Guide for MAFLT Program: <http://libguides.lib.msu.edu/maflt>.
- Library links to citation style guides, citation management software, tutorials, and related resources: <https://lib.msu.edu/citationguides/>
- Online Writing Lab at Purdue (the well-known and widely-used OWL):
 - APA Style Guide: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>.
 - ESL Academic Writing Support – <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/5/25/>.



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