center for integrated language communities

THE GRADUATE CENTER
CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

WRITING PROFICIENCY OF HERITAGE LEARNERS
BACKGROUND QUESTIONNAIRE

all information you provide will be kept confidential

Participant ID Number: _____

Initials: _____

1. Age: _____

2. College: _____

3. Gender:
   ☐ female   ☐ another gender identity
   ☐ male   ☐ prefer not to respond

4. What is the country (or territory) of origin of each of your parents/caregivers?

   Mother/Caregiver 1:   _____

   Father/Caregiver 2:   _____

5. What languages do your parents/caregivers speak?

   Mother/Caregiver 1:   _____

   Father/Caregiver 2:   _____

6. Indicate the highest level of education completed by each of your parents/caregivers.

   <u>Mother/Caregiver 1</u>   <u>Father/Caregiver 2</u>
   ☐ elementary school   ☐ elementary school
   ☐ middle school   ☐ middle school
   ☐ high school   ☐ high school
   ☐ college   ☐ college
   ☐ graduate school   ☐ graduate school

7. What do your parents/caregivers do for a living?

   Mother/Caregiver 1:   _____

   Father/Caregiver 2:   _____

8. In what country (or territory) were you born? _____

9. If you were born outside the United States (or in Puerto Rico), how old were you when you arrived in the United States?

_____ years old

10. Do you have siblings?
    ☐ yes
    ☐ no *(If you answered **no**, skip to Question 11.)*

Are one or more **older** than you?	Are one or more **younger** than you?
☐ yes	☐ yes
☐ no	☐ no

11. Have you attended school in a [HL]-speaking country?
    ☐ yes   From age _____ to age _____   In what country? _____
    ☐ no

12. Have you attended a bilingual education, immersion, or dual language program (a school where you learned [HL] and English at the same time)?
    ☐ yes   From grade _____ to grade _____
    ☐ no

13. Have you attended a weekend or after-school program in [HL] (i.e., at a school, community center, church, etc.)?
    ☐ yes   From age _____ to age _____
    ☐ no

14. Did you take [HL] classes in high school?
    ☐ yes   From grade _____ to grade _____
    ☐ no

15. Are you taking a [HL] course in college this semester?
    ☐ yes   Which course? _____
    ☐ no

16. Have you completed any [HL] courses in college prior to this semester?
    ☐ yes   How many? _____
    ☐ no

17. How often do you travel to a country where [HL] is the dominant language?
    ☐ once per year
    ☐ every two years
    ☐ every three to five years
    ☐ every five years or more
    ☐ never *(If you answered **never**, skip Question 18, and move to Question 19.)*

18. While you are in a country where [HL] is the dominant language, what do you **typically** do there? Check all that apply.
    ☐ visit relatives
    ☐ visit as a tourist

☐ attend classes
☐ other _____

19. On a scale of 1–5, please rate your abilities in [HL] and English.
(**1**=poor; **2**=needs work; **3**=good; **4**=very good; **5**=completely confident)

[HL]: ____ listening ____ speaking ____ reading ____ writing

English: ____ listening ____ speaking ____ reading ____ writing

20. Which statement best describes your writing ability in [HL]?

☐ I am able to produce most kinds of formal and informal correspondence, in-depth summaries, reports and research papers on a variety of social, academic, and professional topics. I can write about abstract issues with virtually no linguistic errors.

☐ I can write routine informal and some formal correspondence, as well as narratives, descriptions, and summaries of a factual nature. I can narrate and describe using the major time frames of past, present and future. I can elaborate to provide clarity.

☐ I have the ability to meet practical writing needs (i.e., I can write simple messages and letters, requests for information, and notes). I can ask and respond to simple questions in writing. I am able to communicate simple facts and ideas in a series of connected sentences on topics of personal interest.

☐ I am able to write words and phrases. I can write lists and short notes. I can fill in information on simple forms and documents.

21. In general, which language do you prefer to use?
☐ [HL]
☐ English
☐ it depends who I talk to
☐ both

22. How often do you use each language in the following situations?

With your parents:

[HL]	English
☐ never	☐ never
☐ rarely	☐ rarely
☐ sometimes	☐ sometimes
☐ usually	☐ usually
☐ always	☐ always
☐ *not applicable*	☐ *not applicable*

With your siblings:

[HL]	English
☐ never	☐ never
☐ rarely	☐ rarely
☐ sometimes	☐ sometimes
☐ usually	☐ usually
☐ always	☐ always
☐ *not applicable*	☐ *not applicable*

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☐ *not applicable*

English
☐ never
☐ rarely
☐ sometimes
☐ usually
☐ always
☐ *not applicable*

With other relatives:

[HL]
☐ never
☐ rarely
☐ sometimes
☐ usually
☐ always

English
☐ never
☐ rarely
☐ sometimes
☐ usually
☐ always
☐ *not applicable*

With your friends:

[HL]
☐ never
☐ rarely
☐ sometimes
☐ usually
☐ always
☐ *not applicable*

English
☐ never
☐ rarely
☐ sometimes
☐ usually
☐ always
☐ *not applicable*

At school:

[HL]
☐ never
☐ rarely
☐ sometimes
☐ usually
☐ always
☐ *not applicable*

English
☐ never
☐ rarely
☐ sometimes
☐ usually
☐ always
☐ *not applicable*

At work:

[HL]
☐ never
☐ rarely
☐ sometimes
☐ usually
☐ always
☐ *not applicable*

☐ sometimes
☐ usually
☐ always
☐ *not applicable*

In your community:

[HL]
☐ never
☐ rarely

English
☐ never

☐ rarely   ☐ usually   ☐ *not applicable*

☐ sometimes   ☐ always

23. How often do you use each language for the following activities?

Text messaging:

[HL]	English
☐ never	☐ never
☐ rarely	☐ rarely
☐ sometimes	☐ sometimes
☐ usually	☐ usually
☐ always	☐ always
☐ *not applicable*	☐ *not applicable*

Posting on Facebook, Twitter, etc.:

[HL]	English
	☐ never
☐ never	☐ rarely
☐ rarely	☐ sometimes
☐ sometimes	☐ usually
☐ usually	☐ always
☐ always	☐ *not applicable*
☐ *not applicable*	

Writing e-mails:

[HL]	English
	☐ never
☐ never	☐ rarely
☐ rarely	☐ sometimes
☐ sometimes	☐ usually
☐ usually	☐ always
☐ always	☐ *not applicable*
☐ *not applicable*	

Watching TV:

[HL]	English
	☐ never
☐ never	☐ rarely
☐ rarely	☐ sometimes
☐ sometimes	☐ usually
☐ usually	☐ always
☐ always	☐ *not applicable*
☐ *not applicable*	

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Listening to music:

[HL]	English
☐ never	☐ never
☐ rarely	☐ rarely
☐ sometimes	☐ sometimes
☐ usually	☐ usually
☐ always	☐ always
☐ *not applicable*	☐ *not applicable*

Listening to talk radio, news, podcasts:

[HL]	English
☐ never	☐ never
☐ rarely	☐ rarely
☐ sometimes	☐ sometimes
☐ usually	☐ usually
☐ always	☐ always
☐ *not applicable*	☐ *not applicable*

Reading books:

[HL]	English
	☐ never
☐ never	☐ rarely
☐ rarely	☐ sometimes
☐ sometimes	☐ usually
☐ usually	☐ always
☐ always	☐ *not applicable*
☐ *not applicable*	

Reading articles (newspapers, magazines, blog posts):

[HL]	English
☐ never	☐ never
☐ rarely	☐ rarely
☐ sometimes	☐ sometimes
☐ usually	☐ usually
☐ always	☐ always
☐ *not applicable*	☐ *not applicable*

Reading for fun online (Facebook, memes, message boards):

[HL]	English
☐ never	☐ never
☐ rarely	☐ rarely
☐ sometimes	☐ sometimes
☐ usually	☐ usually
☐ always	☐ always
☐ *not applicable*	☐ *not applicable*