These JEP Reflective Questions are designed to help you reflect upon your experiences so that you can make the most of your community experiences. **Please read through all of the Reflective Questions prior to beginning your JEP assignment.**

The questions are related to and build upon one another. We encourage you to refer back to previous responses and to take seriously your P.A.'s weekly feedback. Doing so will help you to develop your ideas and arguments over the course of the semester and to learn more from your experiences.

As you respond to the questions, you should **concentrate on addressing the main topic/question (the highlighted one).** The subsequent prompts are focusing questions to help you identify critical factors related to the main question. Please feel free to go beyond the prompts and write whatever seems important to you about your experiences — especially when the topic is related to the issues raised in the main question. For all weeks except Week 2 and Week 8, you may substitute one of the Alternate Questions on the last page when your JEP site does not allow you to adequately answer a Reflective Question.

**Journals for Week and Weeks 3-7 should be a minimum of 1-page long.** The journal for week 8 should be a minimum of 2 pages. **There are special instructions for Week 2.**

**Unless otherwise explicitly stated, all of these journals must be written in Spanish.**

**Please refer to the JEP Grading Rubric and the PA agreement you received in training for instructions regarding journal due dates and format requirements.**

**Week One:** Describe the first day of your JEP assignment, including a description of the general responsibilities and activities involved in your assignment. Are you able to speak Spanish with people at your site? How much of your time at the site is spent communicating in Spanish? *(If you are not speaking Spanish at your site, please come to the JEP House so we can talk about your placement and reassign you if necessary.)* How did your experiences compare to your expectations? What do you hope to accomplish over the next seven weeks, both in terms of the service you are providing to others and the learning goals you are setting for yourself?

**Week Two:** *(Note: You may not substitute an “Alternate Question” this week.)* This week you will be meeting one-on-one with your Program Assistant to talk about your experiences in JEP. In place of a full-length journal assignment this week, we ask that you take a few minutes to write down any questions, comments, or concerns that you have about your JEP assignment so far. For example, what are your tasks at the site and how are you adjusting to your new role? How are you relating to the people at your site? Are you having any problems with any of the logistical aspects of your assignment (e.g., schedule, transportation, Blackboard access, etc.)? **Please submit your comments (approximately a paragraph) the same way you would submit any other journal through Blackboard.** Rather than providing written comments, your PA will discuss the issues with you during your "chat."

**Week Three:** Go to the Census Bureau’s website to find out more about the language and cultural traditions of community residents: [http://factfinder.census.gov/](http://factfinder.census.gov/). Enter 90007 in the “Fact Sheet” box near the top of the screen and click “Go.” In the table that appears, click the “show more” link next to General Characteristics. Take a look at the data in the table (and print your results). Return to the previous page and click the “show more” link next to Social Characteristics. What do the Census data tell you about the sociolinguistic and demographic characteristics of the community? What, specifically, do they say about Latinos, Spanish language use, ancestry, etc.? Compare the information in this chart from what you have learned and observed about the community through your JEP experiences. **How can the Census data—which provide data for an entire community—help you to better understand the unique characteristics of the individuals with whom you are working?**

**Week Four:** How do you feel about speaking Spanish in your assignment? Are you comfortable speaking, writing, etc.? Describe some of the situations in which you typically use Spanish (in and outside of JEP) and the challenges you encounter by not being bilingual. What strategies have you developed to help you through these challenges?

**Week Five:** *(IN ENGLISH)* This week, answer the question that applies to your particular type of assignment.

**For School Placements:** How have your experiences working with Spanish-speaking students influenced your perspectives on bilingual education? Based on your observations in the community school, what positions do you think are important to consider when drafting policies and laws regarding bilingual education?
For Non-School Placements (e.g., Optometric Center): The English-only movement has been particularly strong in California since the 1980s. Consider the challenges facing people with whom you are helping who have limited English skills. **How have your experiences working with Spanish-speaking clients influenced your perspectives on the English-only movement?** Based on your observations at the community site, what positions do you think are important to consider when drafting English-only policies and laws?

**Week Six:** Reflect on your role at your site as a participant in a community service organization. List one or two things that you have done that might benefit the person(s) with whom you are working, either immediately or in the long run. Consider some of your personal limitations as a helper. Was there something you could have done to benefit your student/client but did not do, perhaps because you could not do it? What kinds of limitations do community service programs like JEP face when working in the community?

**Week Seven:** This week, you will be using the Modern Language Association's Language Map in order to gather data to answer your journal question. Go to <http://www.mla.org/map_single> and learn about Spanish speakers in the United States by following these directions:

--Under “Language” click on “Spanish or Spanish Creole,” under “State” click on “Mainland USA,” and under “Show Data” click on “% by county.” Click on “Update Map” and make some observations. Which regions in the United States have the largest percentage of Spanish speakers, and which counties have the smallest percentage of Spanish speakers? Pay special attention to how Los Angeles County (and Southern California as a whole) compares to the rest of the country in terms of the percentage of Spanish speakers.

--Now spend some time experimenting with English and at least one other language of your choice. Again, how has the map changed? How does Spanish compare with these other languages in terms of the percentage of speakers across the United States and in Southern California?

**Given the percentage of Spanish speakers in the United States as a whole (and the community around USC in particular), how important is it that USC students learn Spanish?** Why did you decide to study Spanish on the college level? Do you think Spanish should be required for all USC students? Why or why not?

**Week Eight:** (Note: You may not substitute an “Alternate Question” this week. Additionally, your responses this week should be a minimum of 2-pages long.) **Review your journals for the entire JEP experience, and then compose a summary of what you learned over the last eight weeks.** How have your experiences in the community helped you learn about language, society and culture? What have you learned about yourself? What kinds of pre-conceived notions about the community were challenged for you, if any? How have your experiences compared with your initial expectations? Do you feel that your Spanish has improved? What skills have improved the most – do you understand better, read better, write better, or speak better? How successful have you been in meeting the goals you set for yourself earlier in the semester?

**Alternate Questions**

**Option 1:** Have you observed any situations in which there was miscommunication between speakers of different languages or ethnic groups while working at your JEP site? Describe the nature and the setting of this miscommunication and how it got resolved (or not).

**Option 2:** Describe a meaningful event or series of events (positive or negative) in which you were involved at your site, briefly describing the who, what, where, when, why, and how. Why does this event stand out as particularly important or meaningful to you? How has it affected your relationship to others at the site, your role there, and/or your perspective about your JEP assignment?

**Option 3:** To what extent does the experience of speaking Spanish at your JEP site help you better understand the subject matter in your Spanish course? Provide a specific example from the material you’ve covered in your Spanish course so far.