

**Español 1**  
**Composición #3**

**El bilingüismo en mi vida y en la vida de mi compañero/a hispanohablante**

For your final composition, you will compare and contrast your personal beliefs regarding bilingualism to those of your Spanish conversation partner. Since the objective here is to write a one-page composition, focus on only one of the themes below:

- ♦ actitudes hacia el bilingüismo
- ♦ ventajas y desventajas de ser bilingüe

**I. ANTES DE ESCRIBIR**

A. Consider your personal views regarding bilingualism. Are they more positive or negative? Do you believe that it is necessary to be bilingual in this day and age? In your opinion, what are some of the advantages and/or disadvantages of being bilingual (and bicultural)?

B. Before interviewing your conversation partner, think about the questions you will need to ask in order to gather enough information regarding his or her opinions:

- ♦ de dónde es
- ♦ experiencias bilingües y biculturales
- ♦ comunidad/situación en la que se ha criado (*has been raised*) o vivido (i.e. monolingüe en inglés o español o bilingüe)
- ♦ opiniones personales

Jot down some of the questions you will ask:

e.g., ¿De dónde eres? ¿Dónde naciste? (Where were you born?)

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**II. ¡A ESCRIBIR!: Organización**

A. The organization for a comparative essay can determine how well each comparison and contrast is made. In this case, one effective way would be to separately describe your

views from your partner's, and then summarize the similarities and differences. Here are some examples of transitional words and phrases that may be useful:

además	<i>in addition</i>	ni...ni	<i>neither...nor</i>
así que	<i>so that</i>	o...o	<i>either...or</i>
aunque	<i>even though, even if</i>	por eso	<i>so, for that reason</i>
en cambio	<i>on the other hand</i>		
mientras	<i>while</i>	sin embargo	<i>nevertheless, however</i>

B. Consider how you will conclude your composition. Here are some phrases that may be useful:

a fin de cuentas/ al final/ al fin y al cabo	<i>in the end</i>
después de todo	<i>after all</i>
en resumen/ en total	<i>in summary</i>
para concluir	<i>to conclude</i>

### **III. DESPUÉS DE ESCRIBIR**

Go back and revise your composition for the following elements:

- topic clearly stated
- supporting description given
- clear and logical organization

Then edit your composition for the following elements:

- use of the present and past tenses
- agreement (subject-verb, noun-adj., etc.)
- spelling and accents!