

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Compare/Contrast Language Practice

A. Revise the explanation section of the body paragraph to include comparison language for the writer.

<b>Comparison Language</b>	<b>Sample Body Paragraph</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Similarly</li><li>● Likewise</li><li>● Also</li><li>● Similar to</li><li>● The same as</li><li>● Both</li><li>● In common</li><li>● In comparison</li><li>● Just like</li><li>● Reflection of</li></ul>	<p>Unit 1 first helped me come to the realization that my identity is not a form of isolation, but of interconnectedness through Ken Liu's short story, "The Paper Menagerie," in which the complicated relationship between Jack and his mother reflected back my own struggle to embrace my Asian-American identity. One night at dinner after being bullied at school, Jack yells at his mother: "We should eat American food" (Liu 32). He says this as a result of his Chinese culture being ridiculed by others. I have been embarrassed by the Asian food I'd brought to school for lunch. I would tell my mother to buy Lunchables, since that was what other kids were having, and then proceeded to throw a fit because she refused to. I struggled to feel accepted at school. I understand the conflict he felt as an Asian-American teen. "The Paper Menagerie" reminded me about the importance of my cultural identity, as well as embracing it, because I am not alone in my feelings.</p>

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B. Revise the explanation section of the body paragraph to include contrasting language for the writer.

<b>Contrasting Language</b>	<b>Sample Body Paragraph</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Although</li> <li>● However</li> <li>● Unlike</li> <li>● In contrast</li> <li>● On the other hand</li> <li>● Different</li> <li>● Differ</li> <li>● Despite</li> <li>● But</li> <li>● While</li> </ul>	<p>"(citizen) (illegal)" provides a window into the lives of people who feel torn between their families' "illegal" cultural identity and their society's "citizen" cultural identity, a foreign experience for me, whose family has lost its traditional culture. Throughout the poem, the speaker describes the tension between his Mexican identity and American identity, such as in the third stanza in which he questions if someone is a citizen or illegal "If they have a baby and the baby looks white enough to pass (citizen). / If the baby grows up singing Selena songs to his reflection (illegal)" (Olivarez, lines 15-16). On one hand, the speaker wonders if he is more American than Mexican, since he can pass as white, but on the other hand, he wonders if he is more Mexican than American because he sings songs from the Mexican-American singer Selena. My family immigrated from Germany more than 100 years ago. Throughout my childhood, I remember my mother often singing a few lines of rhyming German to me as I was falling asleep. Just recently, I finally asked my mother the name of the song and its meaning. However, besides the three lines passed down through the generations, my mother knew neither the name nor the meaning of the silly rhyme. My family felt immense pressure to become "American," which at the time meant speaking and singing in English. Consequently, I've realized that my family has lost so much of our traditional culture, such as music and language. All in all, on one hand, I feel dismayed by how much my family has lost in regards to culture, but at the same time, I've never questioned if I belong in the United States, a tension the speaker of Olivarez's poem grapples with.</p>

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