

WHERE WOULD YOU LIVE?

Write down words to describe the following:

- Suburbs

- Texas

- Inner city

- A working farm

- Three-story house with a pool

- A two-bedroom apartment

- A country home

- Alabama

- Penthouse suite

- Alaska

- Townhouse development

- New York

- Mobile home park

WHAT ABOUT IT

Break into small groups and compare your answers.

Are your answers similar? Did you base your answers on personal experience, or on things you have read about?

Are your descriptions connected to money? Why? Is your idea of a working farm different from that of a country home? Why?

If you lived in one of these places, what would your neighbors be like? Are the people who live in each place diverse? The same? How do you know?

Note the breakdown of descriptions of states in different parts of the country. Are the different regions subject to stereotypes? What are they?

If you could pick your ideal home, where would you want to live? Why?

DOES AMERICA NEED A LANGUAGE LAW?

The students in one California school speak 74 different languages. Airports and public buildings often give instructions in two or more languages. So do federal office buildings, utility bills, tax forms and telephone directories. Computer programs for children come in many languages. Television stations offer multi-lingual channels, and Spanish is taught on Sesame Street.

While some of America's language barriers are falling, there was a bill in Congress to make English the official language of the United States. It was sponsored by 18 Senators and close to 200 members of the House. It would require the federal government to conduct virtually all of its business in English. Already, English has been adopted as the official language for state government business in 22 states.

Some politicians argue that America

"needs the glue of language to bind us together." Opponents of the English-only movement argue that it is unfriendly, un-American and goes against our country's promise of free speech.

What do you think?

Write a letter to the editor of the newspaper expressing your opinion on this subject. Read your letters aloud in class. Send some or all of them to the newspaper.