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## Reflections: Writing Letters Home

### Topic 1

- a. **Background:** You arrived two months ago in New York City from a *shetl* (small Jewish town or village) in Poland. You are renting a couch in a tenement apartment on the Lower East Side that you share with a family of four—mother, father, and two children, ages three and five. You work at a sweatshop sewing buttons on shirts, at least ten hours a day.
- b. **Assignment:** Write a letter to your family in Poland describing and explaining your life in America.
- c. **Things to Consider:** What is your daily life like? How many hours do you work? What are your working conditions? Where are you living? What are you eating? Are you learning English? How are you feeling in your new country? Are you happy or sad? Do you have friends? Do you want to stay or go back to Poland?

### Topic 2

- a. **Background:** You arrived in New York City from a *shetl* (small Jewish town or village) in Poland over seven years ago. You live in an apartment with your wife and two children. You work very long hours, but have achieved significant success in your short time in America. You are a garment factory owner and are able to provide a decent life for your family. Your wife volunteers with new immigrants and your children attend school.
- b. **Assignment:** Write a letter to your family in Poland describing and explaining your life in America.

**Things to Consider:** What is your daily life like? How many hours do you work? What are your working conditions? Where are you living? What are you eating? Are you learning English? How are you feeling in your new country? Are you happy or sad? Do you have friends? Do you want to stay or go back to Poland?