When Elysha O'Brien, a college professor in Las Vegas, decided to submit six words about her cultural identity, she knew exactly what she wanted to say: "Mexican white girl doesn't speak Spanish." Like many others who have written to The Race Card Project, she grew up in a bilingual household but never learned the language of her elders.

O'Brien says she often feels like she has a foot in two worlds, but is never fully accepted in either. Whites often assume she is Greek or Mediterranean because her face is slightly angular and her skin fairly pale. But when she encounters others who share her Mexican heritage, they often don't pick up signals that suggest cultural camaraderie.

"When I go into a community of Hispanics, they just assume that I'm white," O'Brien says. "Once we start talking, sometimes they'll say, 'Well, why don't you speak Spanish?' And I say, 'Well, my parents didn't teach me.'"

O'Brien was raised in a household where both parents spoke Spanish — but not to their children. They are Mexican immigrants and made a collective decision to ensure the next generation mastered English without the hint of an accent. Spanish was the secret language they used when they argued or talked about Christmas presents.

O'Brien's father is one of eight children, and among her 45 cousins, all but three speak English only. When she asked her parents, aunts and uncles why they didn't pass on their native language, they all gave the same reason: They faced bias, or worse, when speaking Spanish outside the home. They were rapped on the knuckles at school or denied jobs and other opportunities.

O'Brien absorbed that message, she says. At one point in her teen years, she would de-emphasize her heritage when other Mexican-American kids would tease her for not speaking Spanish, she says. "It was my parents'
language; it wasn't my language. When you're kind of rebellious and you're trying to find your identity, I used to say, 'Well, I'm not Mexican, my parents are.' 

As an adult, even saying those words out loud is difficult for O'Brien. "I think it sounds very flip. It sounds very much like I'm trying to make amends for a really deep wound — just trying to put a Band-Aid on something instead of digging out the infection that's there," she says.

O'Brien, who has a doctoral degree, now says she emphasizes her Latino heritage out of pride. But she also hopes her career path and education might serve as a beacon for others. For years, she never asked her students to address her as "Dr. O'Brien"; "professor" or even her first name would do.

But that changed when she met a Latina student who gushed about meeting a Mexican-American Ph.D. for the first time. Now, she says, "I do make a point to tell people, 'Hey, I'm Mexican and I'm a female and I have a Ph.D. There are not very many of us who have all of those three things."

O'Brien and her husband, an educator of Irish and Italian descent, have three boys — a blend of cultures not easily captured on official forms. Recently, O'Brien says, she had to fill out a form for her children that required checking a box for ethnicity. "And there was a box for "white," there was a box for "black," a box for "Asian" and a box for "Hispanic."

"But Hispanic's there and Italian isn't?" her son asked. "And ... I couldn't really answer him," O'Brien says. "But it's interesting that when you look at the Hispanics ... Mexicans are very different from Cubans, and Cubans are very different from Puerto Ricans, and Puerto Ricans are very different from Peruvians. But yet we are all lumped together as Hispanic, and we are all assumed to ... speak the same language."

O'Brien is determined that her sons will speak both English and Spanish. She hopes that will deepen their relationship with their Mexican-American grandparents. The elders on her family's side, she says, display a more gregarious part of their personality when speaking in their native tongue. As an academic, she says she also wants her boys to have the "brain plasticity" that learning another language allows.

"My children have the O'Brien last name and they're all fair-skinned and they appear white," O'Brien says. But when filling out school forms, "I always make sure I check off that 'Hispanic' box. Because I know that as a white male, they're not going to be given certain privileges as if they were a Mexican male, which perhaps is slightly racist on my own part, but I want them to be able to have access to things."

1. Elysha O'Brien:
   a. feels she has found happiness in not one, but two different worlds.
   b. feels she belongs to two different worlds, but doesn't completely fit in either of them.
   c. thinks she is lucky to have cultural camaraderie with all her friends.
2. O'Brien's father's family:
   a. only spoke in Spanish outside the home.
   b. all agree that the bias against Spanish hurt their opportunities in school, work and other situations.
   c. are biased toward their native language.

3. Now, as an adult:
   a. she proudly speaks of her Latino heritage.
   b. she is still ashamed of her Latino heritage.
   c. it is difficult for O'Brien to speak Spanish out loud.

4. O'Brien's husband:
   a. blends his cultural backgrounds as an educator.
   b. educates their three boys in Irish and Italian culture.
   c. has Irish and Italian ancestry.

5. When filling out official forms for her children:
   a. O'Brien tries to give them privileges by checking the "Hispanic" box.
   b. O'Brien wants to ensure they are considered white males.
   c. O'Brien is considered slightly racist by school officials.

SECTION B (10 points) Choose the option which best rephrases each sentence. Think about meaning and grammar.

1. I can't decide which internship to apply for.
   a. I can't make off my mind which internship to apply for
   b. I can't make up my mind which internship to apply for.
   c. I can't decide my mind which internship to apply for.

2. You will be met by one of our tour guides immediately on your arrival at the airport.
   a. One of our tour guides will meet you as soon as you arrive at the airport.
   b. One of our tour guides will arrive at the airport as soon as possible.
   c. As soon as you arrive at the airport the better.

3. There's no chance of catching the plane now, we should have left earlier.
   a. The likelihood of catching the plane now is zero, we ought to leave early.
   b. There's no way we can catch the plane now, why didn't we leave earlier?
   c. It's impossible to catch the plane now, we should have left earlier.

4. It's a pity we can't afford the flat we looked at.
   a. What a pity the flat we looked at is afforded.
   b. If only the flat we looked at were more expensive.
   c. If only we could afford the flat we looked at.

5. I won't speak to Mike unless he apologizes for what happened the other night.
   a. I'll speak to Mike only if he apologizes for what happened the other night.
   b. Unless he apologizes, Mike won't know what happened the other night.
   c. Mike apologized to me in order to speak about the other night.

6. People do not think the film will make a lot of money.
   a. The film is not expected to earn a lot of money.
   b. People don't think the film will win a lot of money.
   c. The film is expected to earn a lot of money.
7. Bob and Sally regret getting married abroad.
   a. Bob and Sally regret that there wedding wasn’t abroad.
   b. Bob and Sally wish they were getting married at home.
   c. Bob and Sally wish they hadn’t got married abroad.

8. Steve has just taken the children to school.
   a. The children were dropped up at school by Steve.
   b. The children were dropped off at school by Steve.
   c. Steve dropped in on the children at school.

9. Although he tried, Mourinho couldn’t win the tenth Champions for Real Madrid.
   a. Although trying, Mourinho couldn’t win the tenth Champions for Madrid.
   b. In spite the effort, Mourinho wasn’t able to win a tenth Champions for Real Madrid.
   c. Despite trying, Mourinho wasn’t able to win a tenth Champions for Real Madrid.

10. I just barely passed my final exam in Biology.
    a. I almost passed my final exam in Biology.
    b. I failed my exam by the minimum amount.
    c. I passed my exam by the minimum amount.

SECTION C (10 points) Fill the blanks with the correct form of the words in brackets.

In many parts of the country winter refuses to release its icy grip, and records are ___________ (1 break) for spring’s late arrival. Although we know that spring and summer will come eventually, we are still a far cry from rivaling the “Year Without a Summer.”

That year was 1816. It was near the end of the Little Ice Age, a period that began around 1350 AD. It was also in the middle of what became known as the Dalton Minimum, an unusual period of low solar activity ___________ (2 name) after English meteorologist John Dalton that lasted from 1790 to 1830.

But the main contributor to the unusually cold year was the volcanic winter caused by the eruption of Mount Tambora, located on the island of Sumbawa, Indonesia. In April of 1815, it erupted in what was one of the two largest eruptions in the past 2000 years, and the largest eruption in ___________ (3 record) history. This eruption had a Volcanic Explosivity Index (VEI) of 7, which is a supercolossal event. The highest VEI number ever assigned has been an 8, a mega-colossal event — an example is the Yellowstone eruption in 640,000 BC. For point of reference, the eruption of Mount St. Helens ___________ (4 rank) a 5 on the logarithmic scale.

The amount of volcanic ash spewed into the atmosphere by Mount Tambora ___________ (5 lower) global temperatures by as much as 0.7–1.3 °F. Much cooler temperatures in many parts of the world the year after the eruption led to worldwide harvest failures, which is why that year is also known as the “Poverty Year.”
The parts of the world most affected were the northeastern United States and Canada, and parts of Western Europe. The northeastern U.S. was enveloped in a persistent dry fog known as a "stratospheric sulfate aerosol veil" due to the sulfur that was discharged into the atmosphere from the eruption. Neither wind nor rain would disperse this fog that reddened the daylight and made it possible for people to observe sunspots with the naked eye.

Snow fell on June 6, 1816 in New York and Maine, while Quebec City received a foot of snow. June frost led to widespread crop failure, which led to high prices as well as a food shortage. Ice could be found on lakes and rivers as far south as Pennsylvania in the month of August.

Across the pond, cooler- and wetter-than-normal conditions led to the failure of the crop harvests for potatoes, wheat, and oats in Ireland and Great Britain, leading to the worst famine of the century. Frost was present throughout the summer months. Hungary saw brown snow, while Italy saw red snow, both due to the volcanic ash in the atmosphere. London also (7 report) snow — in August.

The Far East was not immune. China’s rice crop suffered due to unusually low temperatures (8 lead) to famine there as well, and snowfall was reported during the summer. Snow and frost were even reported in Taiwan, which is normally tropical.

The explosion of Mount Tambora was heard up to 1,600 miles away. Ash fell over 800 miles away. The volcanic eruption has been blamed for up to 71,000 deaths. Besides the famine caused by the temporary climate change, the volcanic eruption is also blamed for the severity of the typhus epidemic in Europe and the Mediterranean in the years immediately (9 follow); and for a new strain of cholera that broke out in India because the normal monsoon season was disrupted.

The U.S. (10 see) a migration of farmers from the New England states to the Midwest as one of the major long term effects of the eruption; and it was during that cold, rainy summer in Geneva, Switzerland that Mary Shelley began writing her most famous work: the novel Frankenstein.

SECTION D (10 points) Choose the option which best completes each sentence.

1. It doesn’t _______ what time it is, give me a call when you get there.
   a) import  b) matter  c) mind  d) care

2. The _______ of the crowd changed dramatically when they played their hit song.
   a) mood  b) make up  c) take  d) temper

3. It was his _________ to survive that kept him alive on the mountain.
   a) willingness  b) sheer  c) will  d) bravery

4. Job _________ for young Europeans have never been worse.
   a) chances  b) failures  c) sources  d) prospects
5. If you ____________ there, you would have seen for yourself.
   a) was   b) had been   c) had   d) hadn’t been

6. The ____________ sales results were the main cause of his firing.
   a) dismal   b) dainty   c) downsize   d) driving

7. They ____________ ever go to that restaurant anymore.
   a) nearly   b) always   c) almost   d) hardly

8. I was ____________ with the style of art on display at the exhibition.
   a) out of date   b) unfamiliar   c) unbeknown   d) unknown

9. He ____________ in for his boss at the meeting and had to give the presentation.
   a) stood   b) helped   c) took   d) got

10. ____________, they chose to spend their summer in the village.
    a) Lastly   b) At last   c) At the end   d) In the end

SECTION E (10 points) Fill each of the blanks in the passage with ONE suitable word. Write Ø if no word is necessary.

One Sunday this month, the crime thriller “Gone, Baby, Gone,” by Dennis Lehane, ____________ (1) 23 e-book copies, a typically tiny number for a book that was originally published in 1998 but has faded into obscurity.

The next day, boom: it sold 13,071 copies.

“Gone, Baby, Gone” had been designated as a Kindle Daily Deal on Amazon, and hundreds of thousands of readers had received an e-mail notifying them of a 24-hour price cut, to $1.99 from $6.99. The instant ____________ (2) lit a fire under a dormant title.

Flash sales like that one have taken hold in the book business, a concept popularized by the designer fashion site Gilt.com. Consumers ____________ (3) to snapping up instant deals for items like vintage glassware on One Kings Lane or baby clothes on Zulily are now buying books the same way — and helping older books soar from the backlist to the ____________ (4) list.

“It’s the Groupon of books,” said Dominique Racah, the publisher of Sourcebooks. “For the consumer, it’s new, it’s interesting. It’s a deal and there isn’t much risk. And it works.”

Finding a book used to mean scouring the shelves at a bookstore, asking a bookseller for guidance or relying on recommendations from friends.
But bookstores are dwindling, leaving publishers with a deep _________ (5) about the future of the business: with fewer brick-and-mortar options, how will readers discover books?

One-day discounts are part of the answer. Promotions like the Kindle Daily Deal from Amazon and the Nook Daily Find from Barnes & Noble have produced extraordinary sales bumps for e-books, the kind that usually happen as a result of glowing book _________ (6) or an author’s prominent television appearances.

Web sites like BookBub.com, founded last year, track and aggregate bargain-basement deals on e-books, _________ (7) consumers about temporary discounts from retailers like Amazon, Apple, Kobo and Barnes & Noble.

“It makes it almost irresistible,” said Liz Perl, Simon & Schuster’s senior vice president for marketing.
“We’re lowering the bar for you to sample somebody new.”

“In a world of abundance and lots of choice, how do we help people cut through?” Mr. Grandinetti said. “People are looking for ways to offer their authors a megaphone, and we’re looking to build more megaphones.”

Mr. Grandinetti said one book, “1,000 Recordings to Hear Before You Die,” was selling, on _________ (8), less than one e-book a day on Amazon. After it was listed as a Kindle Daily Deal last year, it sold 10,000 copies in less than 24 hours.

Some titles have tripled that number: on a single day in December, nearly 30,000 people snapped up digital copies of “Under the Dome,” by Stephen King, a novel _________ (9) published in 2009 by Scribner. For publishers and authors, having a book chosen by a retailer as a daily deal can be like winning the lottery, an instant windfall of sales and exposure.

Not all of them take _________ (10), though. One publisher said some books fizzle out quickly, attracting only several hundred downloads in a day. Another publisher said he is hesitant to discount that steeply, fearing that consumers will eventually resist paying more than a few dollars for a book.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SECTION A</th>
<th>SECTION D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. a b c</td>
<td>1. a b c d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. a b c</td>
<td>2. a b c d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. a b c</td>
<td>3. a b c d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. a b c</td>
<td>4. a b c d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. a b c</td>
<td>5. a b c d</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SECTION B</th>
<th>SECTION E</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. a b c</td>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. a b c</td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. a b c</td>
<td>3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. a b c</td>
<td>4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. a b c</td>
<td>5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. a b c</td>
<td>6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. a b c</td>
<td>7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. a b c</td>
<td>8.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. a b c</td>
<td>9.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. a b c</td>
<td>10.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SECTION C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>