Many states in this country have passed "English Only" laws. In 1986 the State of California amended the state constitution to declare that English is the official language of California. The amendment says, "English is the common language of the people of the United States of America and the State of California. This section is intended to preserve, protect and strengthen the English language, and not to supersede any of the rights guaranteed to the people of this Constitution." It also says, "The Legislature and officials of the State of California shall take all steps necessary to insure that the role of English as the common language of the State of California is preserved and enhanced. The Legislature shall make no law which diminishes or ignores the role of English as the common language of the State of California."

In some cases, such laws are used to prevent or limit the use of foreign languages in signs on businesses or in government documents, such as ballots and voting materials. They are also used to oppose bilingual education, and the use of languages other than English in public schools.

In a well-organized essay, answer the following question:

Do you agree that "English Only" laws are a good idea for our society? If not, why not? If so, do you think that ballots, voting materials, government documents, educational materials, and signs on businesses should all be in English and only English? Do you think that English proficiency should be required for citizenship?