**Women in America**

*Directions: Answer the following questions about the CBS video and “My Mother Sews Blouses.”*

1. How does the information in the CBS video support (or not support) the relevance of the American Dream today?

2. Now read “My Mother Sews Blouses.” First, summarize the poem in 2-3 sentences. Then, select three lines and use the following chart to organize the poem’s literal and deeper meanings.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| line # | literal meaning | deeper meaning |
|  |  |  |

3. Consider the poem’s form. How do the line breaks contribute to the emphasis of certain ideas? How might the poem’s lack of meter contribute to the overall tone?

4. Look at possible symbolism in the poem. What might the woman’s sight symbolize? What about the black lint?

5. Who is the speaker of the poem? What is the poem’s tone? Do you get the feeling the speaker thinks the mother will succeed in night school? Why or why not?

6. How do the ideas in “My Mother Sews Blouses” correlate to the CBS video and the ideas behind chasing the American Dream? What differences or other aspects would be important to consider?