**Who’s your audience?**

Class Activity: In your group rewrite part of the article (below) for your assigned audience. SHHHHHH! Do not let other groups know which audience you are working on—your summary will be “judged” based on your peers’ ability to target your below audience. Be sure not to forget about content: re-summarize the content as much as possible/appropriate.

Audiences:

1. A 7-year-old who has lives in a bilingual family and has a younger sibling.
2. Your friends on Twitter (140 word limit)
3. Parents
4. UW Newspaper—the Daily

Hearing Bilingual: How Babies Sort Out Language

By PERRI KLASS, M.D.

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Once, experts feared that young children exposed to more than one language would suffer “language confusion,” which might delay their speech development. Today, parents often are urged to capitalize on that early knack for acquiring language. Upscale schools market themselves with promises of deep immersion in Spanish — or Mandarin — for everyone, starting in kindergarten or even before.

Yet while many parents recognize the utility of a second language, families bringing up children in non-English-speaking households, or trying to juggle two languages at home, are often desperate for information. And while the study of bilingual development has refuted those early fears about confusion and delay, there aren’t many research-based guidelines about the very early years and the best strategies for producing a happily bilingual child.

But there is more and more research to draw on, reaching back to infancy and even to the womb. As the relatively new science of bilingualism pushes back to the origins of speech and language, scientists are teasing out the earliest differences between brains exposed to one language and brains exposed to two.