

Major Paper 1: Synthesis

For Major Paper 1, we are going to be building on the ideas that we have been discussing in class. In SA 1, you wrote a narrative about how language affects your own identity giving personal anecdotes as evidence. In SA2, we explored *Mother Tongue* and looked at the ways that Tan uses rhetorical strategies to make her claim about language and identity. SA 3 allowed us to practice intertextuality—how the texts are in conversation with one another—through writing a screenplay or letter. The goal of this essay is to have you enter into this conversation, making your own argument about language and identity or language and power. To create this argument, you should synthesize evidence from the three course readings (Tan, Anzaldua, and Baldwin). The guiding questions below will help you come up with some possible ways of addressing this prompt.

Format: 5-7 Pages (12 point Times New Roman, double spaced), MLA formatting.

Task:

- Effectively follows the genre conventions of an academic essay (*Outcome 1*)
- Makes a complex claim about language and/or identity or language and power. (*Outcome 3*)
- Utilizes an organization strategy that follows the road map of the complex claim (*Outcome 3*)
- Synthesizes the arguments of the three authors that we have read in class to support the claim. (*Outcome 2*)
- Use quotes/paraphrases as evidence from the authors to support the claim. You may use outside source if desired, but it is not necessary. Talk to me about any outside sources that you may want to include before putting them into your paper. (*Outcome 2*)

Guided questions: Please do not attempt to answer all of these questions. These questions are here to get you to make your own connections for you to create your own complex claims. That being said, know that this is NOT a comprehensive list for all the questions you could consider, and you may feel free to explore other lines of inquiry—as long as you can relate it to the readings we have done in class. You may also see me for suggestions on other readings you could include if you choose (not required at all, but may be useful if you want to explore a line of inquiry and need more evidence).

- What do the authors argue? Are there variations in their arguments? (think back to SA 3)
- How do they use different writing tactics to argue their points? What kinds of evidence do they use to support their position? (think back to SA 2 and SA 3)
- What do the authors think is the relationship of language to identity? Is language a way to perform identity? Why? How?
- Why is the author's language important to them?
- Why does this whole conversation matter? Why does it matter that people think that non-standard variations of English are lesser? Think about how language discrimination has affected your own life, the lives of the authors, and/or the lives of other people that you know. (think back to SA1)
- What are the authors' stance about linguistic discrimination?

- How do the authors use the word language? How do they define language?
- What do the authors think about the use of non-standard varieties of English in an academic setting?

Major Paper 1 Rubric	Outstanding	Strong	Good	Adequate	Inadequate
Effectively follows the genre conventions of an academic essay <i>(Outcome 1)</i>					
Makes a complex claim about language and/or identity or language and power. <i>(Outcome 3)</i>					
Utilizes an organization strategy that follows the road map of the complex claim <i>(Outcome 3)</i>					
Synthesizes the arguments of the three authors that we have read in class to support the claim. <i>(Outcome 2)</i>					
Use quotes/paraphrases as evidence from the authors to support the claim. You may use outside source if desired, but it is not necessary. Talk to me about any outside sources that you may want to include before putting them into your paper. <i>(Outcome 2)</i>					
Includes stakes <i>(Outcome 3)</i>					