

Major Paper 1: Impact of Language and Identity

So far we have practiced important outcomes for writing in an academic setting by performing rhetorical analysis of texts and putting our reading into intertextual conversations. You have all learned how to identify genre, audience, and main and supporting claims in support of distinct arguments. The writers we have read so far focus their claims on the importance of different uses of language in the formation of distinct identities, and your first major paper will be an opportunity to synthesize the arguments of these works in your own persuasive writing about your own use of language and identity. While the prompt may seem similar to short assignment 1, this paper will focus on integrating yourself into a conversation about the connections between language and identity, and as a result the paper should be more formal in tone.

Using two course texts of your choosing for support, write a paper that makes a claim *analyzing* to what extent language has influenced your own understanding/construction of identity and belonging. Since this relates directly back to your personal linguistic reflection (SA 1), you are encouraged to cite from that essay as evidence to make connections back to the course texts. Be sure to use all forms of evidence in *strategic and focused ways* to support your claim. As you begin to write, be sure to keep in mind how our authors have made specific rhetorical choices *strategically pitched to their intended audiences*.

For this paper to be successful you must have:

- A complex claim, with clear stakes ('so what?'/ 'why does this matter?') clearly articulated and supported through the text of the paper
- Evidence to support your claims:
 - Clear, relevant, supporting examples from personal experience (can be drawn from personal narrative)
 - Keep in mind that your opinions since SA 1 may have shifted and that is perfectly fine (that is what happens during the research process); feel free to engage with that shift if it is applicable!
 - 3-4 **quotes** from course texts
- Supporting texts and your argument must all participate in a single, clear conversation
- Strategically pitched **to a general academic audience**
- 5-7 double spaced pages (1500-2400 words), 12 pt. Times New Roman font
- Proper use of MLA formatting and in-text citations
- Proofread!

Questions to consider, but you **do not** need to answer/address all or any of these:

...What kinds of assumptions are made about you based on your use of language? How do those assumptions work to restrict or liberate you?

-How has language shaped your perception of a certain place, person, or idea?

...If you are multilingual, does having access to multilingualism benefit or harm the construction of your identity? The construction of your *community*?

...How have you used or seen language used as a political instrument or source of power?

...What experiences have you had where the language you used was dangerous, liberating, or confining?

-How has that shaped your identity? Your awareness of place in society?

...Have rules been dictated to you about language that you find restrictive or liberating? How has that shaped your identity?

Remember, with whatever topic you choose, be sure to answer the larger question of: **WHY AND FOR WHOM DOES THIS MATTER?** Why should we pay attention to the effect language has on the construction of our identities?

Writer's Memo:

For this assignment and all that follow, please write a writer's memo and copy and paste the following rubric with the appropriate outcomes at the end of the memo.

The Writer's Memo should:

- ✓ Be ½-1 page double-spaced
- ✓ Briefly articulate what went well
- ✓ Briefly articulate areas of concern
- ✓ Include the outcomes you want evaluated
- ✓ Include a brief explanation of **why** you want those outcomes evaluated **for this particular assignment**

Draft 1 due IN CLASS: Monday 4/20

Draft 2 due Sunday, (4/26) on Canvas by 11:59 pm

Assignment Rubric:

Key concepts:	Outstanding	Strong	Good	Acceptable	Unacceptable