

## **LANGUAGE INNOVATION ESSAY (First Version counts as 5% of final grade)**

**LENGTH.** 1000-word Essay + 100-word Writing Reflection = 1100 words minimum (no maximum)

**GENERAL.** Write an essay that uses primary and secondary research as evidence to help you develop your position on the issues surrounding language change/innovation. This essay will bring the views of at least two language experts from our class (Alim & Smitherman, Fish, Tan, Demby, Anzaldúa, Philip, Canagarajah, Guerra, or Noah) into conversation with your own primary research. You should summarize what the scholars/experts argue and convey what you believe about why language innovation matters, or what you believe about using multiple forms of “English” in writing and speech, especially in academic or public contexts. Make sure to use evidence from your secondary sources (the language experts) and full, rich descriptions your primary research (your experiences, your primary text, or your field research) as the base for your claims in this essay.

**SPECIFIC.** Your essay should accomplish the following (in any order that makes sense to you):

- Bring in evidence from your primary research. Draw your reader into your essay using vivid and clear examples that convince them to understand language in the way that you do. Consider using multiple dialects or languages.
- Summarize, quote from, and address the arguments of at least two authors we have read
- Make the significance of your own contribution to this conversation clear. Decide what you have to add to this conversation about language change and innovation. Do you want to present evidence that challenges your audience’s views about language? Affirms them? Simultaneously challenges and affirms? Be clear about why you are sharing your brilliant ideas and findings with this audience and what you want them to understand/believe/do as a result of reading the essay. What is at stake in your argument?

Next, include an **MLA-style WORKS CITED** list of texts that you incorporated into your essay.

Finally, include a **WRITING REFLECTION**. This is a ~100-word statement that appears after you close your essay. In it, you should discuss the following: Why did you choose the primary research you did? Why did you choose to write your piece in the language that you chose? How and why did you choose your audience? How do you hope to affect this person or group?