Essay 4: Hear My Voice – Language & Identity

☐ proposal (1 page, 1 pt.) due Thursday, April 25
☐ research notes (2+ pages, 2 pts.) due Tuesday, April 30
☐ outline (2+ pages, 1 pt.) due Thursday, May 2
☐ rough works cited page (1 page, 1pt.) Thursday, May 2
☐ rough draft (5+ pages, 2 pts.) due Tuesday, May 7
☐ meet with a tutor or me by Monday, May 13
☐ final draft (5+ pages, 15 pts.) due Tuesday, May 14

All of these must be typed using MLA format.

Topic

In The Best We Could Do, Thi Bui uses a combination of words and images to tell her family’s story and even uses a few Vietnamese phrases in places. Her parents’ ability to speak Vietnamese, French, and English helps them at various points in their lives; at other times, refusing to speak French becomes a form of resistance for Má. Just like in the book, people often use different types of language, abbreviations, jargon, slang, profanity, text-speak, “Spanglish,” etc., depending on whom they are speaking or writing to.

In this essay (5+ pages, 6+ paragraphs), you will analyze, categorize, and compare how you and the people around you (friends, family, teammates, workplace, hobby, subculture, etc.) use written and spoken language, such as slang, profanity, jargon, lingo, bilingualism, text-speak, emoji, abbreviations, GIFs, memes, etc. Analyze the purposes of these language types. To what extent does this language bring people together, exclude people, or express identity? How does who you are affect how you use language? How does your use of language affect your identity? You must use personal examples from real life and 4+ different research articles (1 must be from a library database).

Audience & Purpose

Consider that your reader uses different types of specialized language than you. Your purpose is to analyze and explain your particular use of language as well as how that reflects or shapes your identity.

Required Reading

• your research
• articles & selections from Writing Commons linked on my website

Research Requirement

You must include and analyze supporting examples from real life and at least four other sources, such as research articles, e-books, or website articles. Use the library’s electronic databases to find articles (i.e., Academic Search Complete, SocINDEX, Communications & Mass Media Complete, JSTOR). One of the articles must come from a library database. You may also use scholarly dictionaries as well as credible internet websites. You may even interview a friend or use Urban Dictionary.com (but these do not count as one of the four main sources).

Structure & Content Checklist

_____ Write a creative, informative title for your essay; write an interesting, inventive hook as well.
_____ Your introduction should introduce the topic as well as any possible debates surrounding that topic.
_____ The thesis of your essay must state your position and preview your analysis specifically.
Structure & Content Checklist cont.

_____ Use clear topic sentences and transitions to provide a structure for your essay.

_____ Organize the supporting paragraphs by category, comparison, or order of importance (emphatic order).

_____ You must quote and analyze at least two specific examples from real life in every supporting paragraph.

_____ You must also include one or two quotations from research in every supporting paragraph.

_____ Remember to ICE: introduce, cite, and explain each quotation, example, or paraphrase.

_____ It is acceptable to use first-person (“I,” “my,” “we,” “us,” “our”).

_____ Use quotations marks around words when referring to them as words (e.g., “LOL” is a common abbreviation).

_____ Write a strong conclusion that summarizes and wraps up the entire essay.

_____ Edit and proofread your sentences so that they are as clear and correct as possible.

_____ Include a properly formatted works cited page.

_____ Format your paper properly: double-spaced, one-inch margins, 12-point font such as Times New Roman.

Process – You must complete and submit all of the following with the final draft (I will provide a folder):

_____ final draft & works cited page

_____ copies / printouts of all articles used in the paper [very important] - Write titles on copies.

_____ tutoring receipt or my comments** _____ rough draft(s)

_____ peer review comments _____ outline

_____ rough works cited page _____ research notes

_____ proposal _____ brainstorming, any other notes, etc.

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Do not plagiarize (copy, borrow, steal, or buy someone else’s writing);
if you do, you will receive zero points for this assignment and possibly fail the course.

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** You must visit a tutor or my advice hours for this essay.

• Bring your assignment sheet, notes, and draft with you when you see a tutor at the Language Success Center.

• Please feel free to visit my advice hours (MW 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & TTh 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.) or email me (neil.watkins@chaffey.edu) at any point in your writing process.

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Proposal Questions – 1 page, typed, due Thursday, April 25

1. What are some possible groups that you belong to that affect how you speak or write? How and why do those groups affect who you are?

2. What are some possible examples of slang, jargon, text-speak, etc. that you might focus on?

3. What do you want your reader to learn or understand from your essay?

4. What obstacles or challenges might you face as you write? How will you overcome those?

5. When & where will you write the essay?

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Students’ Advice

“Try to start on your work early enough that you have a little time to ‘live’ with it. You’ll be amazed at the things you’ll see in your writing – things to rearrange and correct.”

“Take more time to research. Start to research at the beginning; don’t wait till the last second.”

“Always ICE your quotes!! It not only gives the reader a better understanding, but it helps you become more detailed to reach the page or information requirements.”
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☐ research notes (2+ pages, typed, 2 pts. = 2%) due Tuesday, April 30

1. List specific examples of language, slang, jargon, profanity, text-speak, abbreviations, or bilingualism that you will include in your essay. In what situations or with whom do you use each type of language?

2. Interview a friend, coworker, classmate, teammate, etc. about his or her use of specialized language. Type 2 or 3 quotations from that interview.

3. Find 4+ library articles, e-books, or website articles that you can use in Essay 4 (1 must be from the library databases). For all 4 articles, answer these questions:
   • What is the title?
   • Who is the author?
   • What did you learn from reading this article?
   • To what extent do you agree or disagree with the article?
   • Type 1 or 2 quotations that you might use in your essay from this article.

4. Print, read, and annotate the articles. Attach them to your typed responses to questions 1, 2, 3.