Essay 4: Hear My Voice – Language & Identity

- proposal (1+ page, 1 pt.) due Tuesday, April 28
- research notes (2+ pages, 2 pts.) due Thursday, April 30
- outline (2+ pages, 1 pt.) due Tuesday, May 5
- rough works cited page (1 page, 1pt.) due Tuesday, May 5
- rough draft (5+ pages, 2 pts.) due Thursday, May 7
- Chaffey Event Review (2+ pages, 5 pts.) due Tuesday, May 12
- meet with a tutor, SI, PAL, or me – now optional Wednesday, May 13
- final draft (5+ pages, 15 pts.) due Thursday, May 14

All of these must be typed using MLA format and submitted to Canvas.

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 in life 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 your life and research in every supporting paragraph.

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.

Reading Requirement

- your research
- articles & selections from Writing Commons on my website

Research Requirement

You must include and analyze supporting examples from real life and at least three 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.
____ 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 one or 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 Times New Roman font.

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

____ final draft & works cited page
____ tutoring receipt or my comments**
____ peer review sheet
____ research notes
____ outline & rough works cited page
____ proposal

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.

** See SI, the PAL, a tutor online, or email me for this essay. This is now optional.

• Bring your assignment sheet, notes, and draft with you when you see an online tutor.
• Please email me (neil.watkins@chaffey.edu) at any point in your writing process.

Proposal Questions – 1 page, typed, due Tuesday, April 28

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?