

ENC 1101

Essay One: Keepin' It Real

After reading Amy Tan's essay, "Mother Tongue," and Gloria Anzaldua's excerpt, "How to Tame a Wild Tongue," you may be catching onto the idea that most everyone navigates through many different language communities. These language communities (or social groups) can be made up of friends, family, or co-workers, to name a few. When moving from one community to another, our language use (or, as our textbook points out, rhetoric) changes, or we do what scholars call "code shifting." For example, most of us would use different language when we are talking to friends than we would use when speaking to our elders or employers. Now that you have identified your "Home" language community (Hlc), look back at your Hlc-Poem and examine lines four through nine. Select an issue you and your group would care deeply about create an imaginary conversation that you would have about it. You are expected to use the language you would normally use with your Hlc. Your objective is to be as authentic, or real, and accurate as you can possibly be in representing how you and your Hlc would communicate about the issue.

PURPOSE: Create an accurate representation of a conversation between yourself and members of your Hlc.

AUDIENCE: I will be your audience for this assignment, so any language you use that you think I might not understand should be briefly explained in brackets.

GENRE: This is not a traditional essay, so it does not neatly fit into one genre, or type, of writing. In order to be authentic in your depiction of the conversation, you should choose a variety of genres that you use in real life. Examples of genres you might use would be as follows: face-to-face conversation, Youtube videos, blogs, IMs, texting, Skyping, or Facetime. If you decide to include any means of communication other than the written word, these should be used sparingly. They should serve as examples of your communication, and your essay will have to include at least 800 written words (yes, texting, IMs, and blogs will be included in the word count).

LENGTH: 800-1000 written words

STYLE: MLA heading, double spaced

EVALUTATION: I will evaluate your work by looking at two things: 1.) accurate representation of a conversation with your Hlc and 2.) clear communication. We will meet for a one-on-one conference to read over your paper, and a letter grade will not be assigned at this point. When we meet, I will make recommendations for revisions and provide you with a rubric that will explain how I will arrive at your letter grade once you submit your revisions.