

Reflection paper guidelines

This assignment involves watching or listening to a talk, documentary or podcast and submitting a reflection paper that relates it to something that we learned in class.

What I'm looking for:

- Thoughtful connections that demonstrate an understanding of class material and an ability to creatively apply concepts that we've learned to other work in linguistics.
- 1000-1500 words
- Clear organization. Your reflection should not be a long string of unconnected ideas. It should be centered around a main thesis.
- Sharp focus. This is not a long paper. I don't expect you to relate the source to everything that we've learned in class. Instead, choose one or two connections that you can explore in depth.
- Specific examples and detailed arguments. Try to dig deep into the connections that you're making. i.e. instead of saying that 'the podcast also talked about creoles', focus on the points that the podcasters are making *about* creoles. Seek out points that may deepen your understanding, rather than just broaden or reiterate it.
- Feel free to use first person pronouns (I/my) and talk about your experiences. Don't feel compelled to write in Standard American Academic English—you may write in whatever dialect is most comfortable to you. However, the tone of the paper should be academic (informative, straightforward, evidence-based).

Choosing a source:

I want you to find a source in a topic that is interesting to you. If none of the options appeal to you, or you want to look at something on a particular topic you don't see here, let me know and I can help you find something. If you choose an option that is not on the list, **I must approve it.** See the "Reflection paper topics" document for a long list of potential options.

Information to include:

Regardless of which option you choose, **include the following information at the top of your paper:**

- a. The title of the talk/paper/podcast/video etc.
- b. Date of talk/paper/episode/video/posting etc.
- c. Author of article, speaker/presenter
- d. What subfield(s) would you classify this talk as (i.e. psycholinguistics, syntax, phonology)?

e. (if relevant) Publisher (journal, newspaper, title of podcast, conference etc.)

Rubric

Writing/communication standard	Meets/exceeds standard
W1: I can assess content about language and linguistics that I see in popular media and relate it to things we have learned in class	Demonstrates clear understanding of all material and its relationship to other class units. Provides detailed examples and makes connections to daily life where appropriate. Uses technical vocabulary appropriately.
W2: I can present my analysis using a clear thesis statement	Thesis statement clearly states main argument and suggests key points of analysis. Thesis statement appears early on in the work
W3: I can use examples from other sources to support my own argument and I can appropriately cite those sources	Source information collected for all graphics, facts, quotes, and provided in a references list. Sources cited where appropriate throughout project.
W4: I can communicate my argument clearly, dividing my analysis up into appropriate units (paragraphs, slides, etc.) and linking each unit back to my main point	Clearly organized using appropriate organizational techniques for the medium (headings, lists, visual organization, clear slides, etc.). Presents information in a clear and orderly fashion, with good connections to thesis statement