

LING135 Short Paper #2: Opinion Article Response (15 points)

The Assignment

In this project you will respond to a language opinion article from a sociolinguist's perspective.¹ There are a number of articles I have posted on Moodle - you may browse through them and choose the one you wish to respond to. You may also find your own article, if you would like.²

After choosing your article, you should first read the article thoroughly and make sure you understand what the author's stance is on the issue in question. You should be able to sum up their opinion in a sentence or two.

Next, you should also take a stance on the issue (consider: is the author's view the same as yours? Do you think they're completely wrong? Do you think the issue is nuanced, and that the author doesn't have the whole story?). Make sure you can write your stance in the form of a thesis statement (see examples below). You'll put this thesis statement at the end of the first paragraph of your paper.

Finally, write a response article as if you were submitting an opinion piece to the same source as the article. Choose specific examples from the article to respond to and use sociolinguistic concepts to support your argument regarding each example. Be sure to explicitly refer to concepts from our readings (see below) to support your argument.

Sample Thesis Statements:

These statements aren't meant to be used verbatim – they are merely examples of the types of claims I am looking for. You will need to modify the statements (and make them more specific) for your paper.

1. I agree with the author's point of view. In this response, I support their perspective with additional evidence from scholarly sociolinguistic references.
2. The broad strokes of the opinion article are correct, but the author gets some details wrong. In this response I will introduce evidence that clarifies some of the ideas in the article.

¹ Luckily, *you* are a sociolinguist!

² The article should be published in the opinion section of a news source. Please run anything you find by me first.

3. The author makes claims that are largely inaccurate. I will demonstrate this by providing evidence from scholarly references that refute their erroneous claims.

Nuts and Bolts:

You should aim for 3-5 pages, double spaced, with reasonable fonts and margins.³

References are not required. Any references you choose to include should be cited using in-text citations (Author Date) and a references list at the end of the paper. The preferred citation style is APA, but as long as you are consistent, any citation style is acceptable. The finished paper must be **submitted as a PDF to Moodle by Friday, October 13 at 12pm..**

A note on writing style: This paper should have the tone of an opinion article in the newspaper. It won't be formal academic writing, but use something that approximates SAE and pretend you have a copy editor (e.g., check for mistakes in spelling, punctuation, etc.). You can also use "I" in this paper. Finally, avoid ad hominem attacks (criticize the argument, not the author).

³ Typically this is 10-12 point font, 1 inch margins.