**Thought Question Submission - Week 4**

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Article:

* H. Samy Alim & Geneva Smitherman. "Nah, We Straight"

1. The focus of the article is the dialect shift to account for different perspectives, the perfect example being Barack Obama. The change in speech to reflect the different environments and people is huge for linguists. **Has any other president used this shift during this political career as much as President Obama?**
2. As stated in the article when others are describing Obama’s communication skills to remain brief one would say to the highest degree. Through all races and age group Obama’s talent of making complex issues simple and understandable is generational. **With such a careful balance between this formal political speech and “semi-african american” would it be fair to consider it calculated?**
3. Finally, certain words, syllabus, vowels and elements of Obama’s speeches are stressed just like anyone else's. What makes Obama so special is those words are carefully stressed to reflect to maximize his talent as a communicator. **What elements did Obama have to abandon to become the president?**