

Project 1: Accents, Identity, and Stereotype in Media

15% of semester grade

Due: Tuesday, February 6th at 2:30pm**

Prompt: For this project, you will need to find and analyze an example of an accent or language variety being portrayed in film, television, or news media. Your essay should analyze both how the text portrays the language variety or accent in question, and the social, historical, and/or political significance of this treatment of language. The analysis should be supported by specific examples from the chosen film/news/show, by ideas and terms from course readings. You should also research to see if there are any relevant articles in the mainstream news that might provide context to the popular reaction to accent in your chosen film/show (ie, if the use of accent or language variety in the movie was the subject of controversy or scrutiny or just plain commentary in the mainstream news media at the time it came out, you should know about it).

Questions to Consider:

How was language/accent treated in this film/show?

In what ways did the film/show connect accent, language, and identity?

Were there any reactions to this use of language at the time the film/show aired?

Is the treatment of here similar to or different from other popular representations of this language/accent?

Is there relevant historical context to this film/show's treatment of language?

What is the social or political significance of this portrayal of language?

Requirements: 4 pages, double-spaced in Times New Roman font. Correct MLA, APA, or Chicago citations.

“Grammar” and Your Grade: Almost the entirety of your grade for this assignment will be concerned with the content of the analysis. The very small portion given to grammar will be determined by a single factor: concision. Feel free to experiment with your own language style in this essay, or write in a way that is reflective of one of your home language varieties.

** You have two options for the due date:

1. Submit your essay to the Writing Center front desk by 2:30pm on Tuesday, Feb 6th
2. Attend class on Tuesday, Feb. 6th with a draft and partner up with another student for peer review. (Make sure to sign in with the writing consultant!) Or, have an appointment in the Writing Center Sunday (Feb 4), Monday (Feb 5), or Tuesday (Feb 6). Your revised essay will be due in class Thursday, Feb 8th.