

**Possible Short Answer Questions:**  
**(There will be 6 questions worth 6 points each.)**

According to Alim and Smitherman, why is Obama's speaking style so effective?

What is communicative competency?

What does it mean when we say: "language is a system"?

What does "linguaging race" mean?

Why is being called "articulate" viewed negatively by many people?

What is one example accent-based stereotype that we have discussed or read?

Why do Alim and Smitherman use the term style-shifting instead of code-switching?

What is linguistic profiling?

What is the difference between language, dialect, and accent?

What is one theory about how Black English originated?

What is one grammatical feature of Black English?

What is a marked term?

What is an example semantic derogation in relation to gender?

What is linguistic subordination?

Many (Americans) assume that giving indirect orders is the sign of a less confident leader. What does Tannen conclude about indirectness and confidence, and why?

What is one thing Lippi-Green finds problematic about Disney's portrayal of accent?

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**Possible Essay Questions:**  
**(There will be 2 essay questions worth 32 points each.)**

Grading Criteria: Essay answers all parts of the question, makes references to course readings, supports answers with clear, specific examples, and demonstrates that the writer can analyze and apply core concepts.

Pick an English language variety and analyze its reception in social and professional settings. Consider the following questions when writing your answer: Is the language variety associated with certain stereotypes or races/ethnicities? How might you change the current way in which this language is viewed? Use concepts or theories from at least two of the readings from class in your answer and be sure to consider multiple perspectives.

In Chapter 6 of *Articulate While Black*, a high school teacher expresses concern about focusing on Black English in the classroom, suggesting that “Standard” English is necessary for the job-market. What should this teacher do? In supporting your argument, outline the primary arguments for and against incorporating Black English into upper level classrooms. Then, consider the implications of this decision.

In many older Disney animated films, main characters are portrayed as speakers of a “Standard” American English, despite the fact that the story is not set in an English-speaking country (*Mulan*, *Aladdin*, etc.). Do you believe this is problematic? What are the implications? Support your answer with ideas raised in course readings and discussion.

Imagine someone has been discussing gender differences in language use, stating that women are less direct than men and that this reflects the speakers sense of authority. How would you respond? Use information from course readings and discussion to support your response.

Compare and contrast the benefits and drawbacks of indirect language. Your discussion should consider: how is indirectness perceived by others? What purposes does indirect language serve? What is problematic about indirect language?

Describe and discuss the implications of a “Standard” English. Your discussion should answer the following questions: What is a “standard” language? What are some specific examples of how it is reinforced or promoted? What are the implications of having a standard? How/why is this idea problematic?

Re-read the first two pages of Chapter 1 of *Articulate While Black*. Analyze the patterns visible and write a response on how the author’s play with language to influence the reader? Consider the diction, syntax, and code shifting in the passage. What was the authors’ purpose in using this language?

What does it mean to be “articulate” and what are the implications for educators (or students)? Focusing particularly on *Articulate While Black* and the Lyiscott TedTalk, discuss the different cultural, racial meanings associated with the word “articulate,” and the pedagogies associated with teaching students to adopt the linguistic methods of Barack Obama and Jamila Lyiscott.

