

Ling 113 Language and Diversity in the U.S.  
Selkirk Fall 2005

### **Final Essay**

What similarities and differences are there in variation in the use of regional dialects and the use of African American English? Consider both within-individual variation and between-individual variation.

- Minimum length: three typed pages.
- To be submitted by **email** to [jan@linguist.umass.edu](mailto:jan@linguist.umass.edu) no later than **10pm on Monday, Dec. 19** in one of the following formats: pdf, Microsoft word (.doc), or rich text (.rft)

Pointers for a successful essay:

Write clearly. Imagine you were a journalist writing for a local newspaper or a high school science magazine. Don't presuppose any knowledge on this topic on the part of your readers.

Outline the general idea of your article and pick a few examples you find particularly informative and explain them to your audience in detail – that is, do not to simply run through points but to really explain and illustrate them.

Since this is a science report, it is important that you report (and explain) evidence. The evidence you discuss could come from the various studies we have talked about in class, as well as the ones reported in the reading. Pick the ones you found best fitting for your article and explain them.

Write a draft of your paper, let it sit for a bit, ideally overnight, and then re-read and revise it.