

Assignment on Chapter 2 of Lisa Green's *African American English*.  
Hand in by Monday, November 14

(A note on length: content is more relevant than length,  
but if you're unsure aim for maybe a page and a half or so.)

**One.**

Describe some differences and commonalities in the auxiliary system of African American English and Mainstream English. Give examples.

**Two.**

Suppose somebody claimed that speakers of African American English (AAE) didn't use the auxiliary "be" properly, and "illustrated" it with the example in (1), claiming that it really should be like the Mainstream English (ME) sentence in (2).

Show that his argument is based on the wrong assumption that *be* in (1) is an auxiliary in the same way that *are* is in (2). You can use examples (3) – (5) to illustrate your point.

Then mention the differences in meaning between AAE (1) and ME (2).

(1) Mice be squeaking.

(2) Mice are squeaking.

(3) Mice DO be squeaking.

(4) Mice don't be squeaking.

(5) a. Mice be squeaking, don't they?

b. \*Mice be squeaking, ben't they? (the \* means that this is ungrammatical)