

Ling 101, *People and their Language*, Fall 2006

Discussion Sections 1 and 5

TA: Annahita Farudi Email: afarudi@linguist.umass.edu

Office Hours: Fridays 11.30-1.00, South College Room 303

Discussion Section 10

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Do not confuse the meanings of:

- their
- they're
- there

Apostrophe usage

Fill in the following sentences with the appropriate form of the word *adolescent*.

1. _____ are often concerned with establishing independence from their parents.
2. _____- concern with establishing independence from their parents affects their behavior in various ways.
3. One _____-response to increased freedom and responsibility is not always the same as another's.

Correct, revise, and or rewrite the following sentences as appropriate, considering punctuation and grammar as well as stylistic matters, such as awkward or wordy constructions, tone, and word choice.

1. Two specific school orientations discussed by Eckert are the jocks and the Burnouts, and these people are usually in the middle class and the working class, respectively.
2. Burnouts come from blue collar families and are not involved in school because it lacks teaching skills they intend to use in the working-class world.
3. Majority of the student body was entirely white, among whom the major social differentiation is based on the socioeconomic class.
4. The differences in their speech are dictated largely around the immediate geographic area.

5. How members of the groups speak depends on all kinds of factors like where they generally spend their time or what kind of language will be socially acceptable in their futures.
6. According to Eckert, there are two different social classes jocks and burnouts.
7. In doing so, they become open-minded and embrace the changes that are apart of the urban community.
8. By being exposed to urban speech, it is easier for the adolescents to make contact with city people, therefore allows the burnouts to become closer to urban changes.
9. The social structure of the Detroit suburban high school was lead by the burnouts.
10. Personally, I was an in-between, so I did my own thing anyways.
11. Eckert from what I got out of it is talking about social differences between groups in high school.
12. There were many kids who had the personality of both a jock and a burnout. They were a jock in the sense that they were active, played sports, and went to college. However, they were a burnout in the sense that they were into drugs, and were “freaks.”
13. In a Detroit suburban high school there is an obvious division of social groups; the jocks and the burnouts.
14. They have different interest, attitudes toward authority and schoolwork, and they way that they dress.
15. The burnouts then leave high school to compete with other adults therefore don’t have much of an influence from adults.
16. The burnouts weren’t as formal with their speech because they didn’t have much of an influence from adults.
17. My high school social structure was actually very similar to that of the Detroit high school.
18. Each of these social classes were defined in regards to attitude toward school, adults, and other cultural aspects in relation to their language style.
19. The urban sound changes are a result from the social network structure.
20. Eckert believes that the middle-class and working-class divide in school as groups, as well as, the real world.
21. Unlike the burnouts in Detroit my school was quite different. They do not like to go to public places like parks. They stayed more in residential areas.

22. Trendsetting in my school was set off mostly by the preppy kids because they had the best style. They made polo shirts with the popped collar cool and jean mini skirts with Ugg boots hip. Everyone else would buy similar clothing to mimic their awesome style.
23. Like, in Detroit, jocks would affiliate themselves with everything school so they can reap the rewards of attending a bigger institution with more people, also known as college.

A few general points

Grammar

-Generally the convention is to use the present tense when writing about an academic article or book, such as this article by Eckert. ‘Eckert says..’, ‘Eckert describes...’ ‘Eckert argues that...’ rather than ‘Eckert said..’, ‘Eckert argued..’ etc.

Also, be sure to be *consistent* in your usage of tense.

-Do not confuse the use of *commas* and the use of *semicolons*. (See a few of the examples above.)

Style

-“Briefly summarize” means *brief*. It is not necessary to include a lot of additional description and simple repetition of all of the points made in the article. If you can distill the essence of the argument, you’ve mastered the real difficulty; a good summary probably shows that you’ve read and understood all of the reading.

Aim for prose that is formal in register, but not overly ornate or complicated. The best writing is clear and lucid. Err on the side of simplicity, if it will make your argument more clear.

Also, take care in choosing the words you use. Be sure you understand the meaning of the word and why you are choosing to use it in a particular context. Avoid overly long or obscure words if they are not necessary, but also avoid overly informal words, many of which are really appropriate only in speech but not in writing. This includes colloquial turns of phrase, as well as slang terms.