

The following Discussion Board assignment is adapted from questions in *Writing About Writing*, 4th edition, by Elizabeth Wardle and Doug Downs.

After completing this week's readings, watch the embedded video, "[3 Ways to Speak English](#)" by Jamila Scott. This piece is a "spoken word" poem. You can access the video transcript at the [TED page](#) (click on "transcript" below the video).

Answer the questions related to this week's readings and discuss the video in light of the topic of "code meshing" or "code switching".

- Instead of believing that most people can't use English correctly, Young asserts we should describe "correct English" as the English people *actually* use. Why do you think we don't already do this? (Wardle and Downs 336).
- Mellix says that "speaking standard English to whites was our way of demonstrating that we knew their language and could use it....But when we spoke standard English, we acknowledged...that our customary way of speaking was inferior" (para. 8). What does she mean by this? How would Young explain the damage this dual speaking was causing? (Wardle and Downs 347).
- Do you switch languages? And/or do you change variations? (i.e. Do you talk to your teachers the same way you talk to your friends?) How do you change the way you talk? Why do you talk a certain way to certain people and a different way with other people? What benefits does this have?

Directions:

1. You will need to post your own response before you can read others' posts.
2. Respond to the three question prompts above. Be sure to write in a way that will be understood by others but use your own voice. :-) **Initial Response: due Thursday, Feb. 3**
3. Respond to two peers in a meaningful and engaging way. Avoid simple "I agree/disagree" statements. **Responses to peers: due Sunday, Feb. 6**

This assignment is worth 10 points. Please click on the 3-dot "snowman" to view the rubric.