

Language in your life, an exercise.

Most people don't think about language very much in their daily lives, but sometimes a particular experience or situation will get you thinking.

For example, new parents often think about language as they watch their child learn to talk. Or you may have questions about language if an elder relative has a stroke and partially loses the ability to talk. Or you may have a friend whose speech is really different from yours. Or maybe people always mishear or mispronounce your name in the same way.

For this exercise, we would like for you to write about a situation in your own life that made you notice language more than usual. Answer the reporter's questions – who, what, where, when, why? Then say something briefly about what questions about language your experience prompted, and whether you felt like you learned something you didn't know before. Also, is there anything about this experience or situations like this that you would like to learn more about in this class?

---

We're asking you to write about a language experience as a way to prime the pump and get you thinking about what this course will be about, and also as a way to let us know if there are particular topics of interest that we could focus on.

This is a pass/fail exercise – that is part of your participation grade. 2 or 3 paragraphs would probably be enough to get your point across.