

Essay on Language - 2019

Language matters. That is the core reason for this class' existence. Knowing that language matters means that all language – even silly language – has weight to it. As George Lakoff, cognitive scientist and linguist puts it, “Words matter. They shape our politics - and our lives.”

Consider a word or phrase that you find problematic due to variations of interpretation. You can consider issues of politics, political correctness, inflammatory language or name calling, gender issues, temporal or geographic issues, or issues of confabulation. Using the readings from the Language chapter as place to start and as support documents, write an essay exploring the complexity and problems inherent to your choice of word or phrase. You can choose to focus on how a word or phrase is used, the context of its use, why it may be used, when it may or may not be appropriate, etc.