

3D: Observe & Analyze I

Paulette Oke, MA, Lecturer, English [00:00:00] You'll see that this term, much of our class is based on discussions, and discussions provide a wonderful opportunity for us to learn from each other, and it's also a way to gain better understanding of the material. So I welcome your participation or your input, as there's a possibility that, you know, you see things in the material that I don't. And, you know, research is pretty solid that discussing the material is also a way to clarify your thinking and it's also a way to gain deeper understanding of the content. So, in other words, you'll learn more. So let's begin by moving our chairs into a circle so that we can better see each other.

Taniya, Student [00:00:46] Do you want to squeeze in here?

Jason, Student [00:00:48] Oh, no, no, I'm good, thank you.

Paulette Oke, MA [00:00:49] I know it's a little tight in this room, but everyone try your best to fit in. Today, we're focusing on the two assigned readings, and I was hoping that you all had the opportunity to post your responses to the reading questions on the course board. But I looked over a few before class and saw that some of you have questions about the Baldwin article. You didn't understand the article. Some of you want to know when it was written. Some of you want to know who Baldwin is. Okay, so the article was written in 1979 and James Baldwin was a famous African American writer, social critic, essayist, and poet. He's best known for highlighting the African American experience. Are there any more questions? Okay, so maybe getting into the material will inspire further thought. So, what would you say is the point of the Baldwin article? Yes, can I please ask your name?

Josh, Student [00:01:50] Josh.

Paulette Oke, MA [00:01:51] Okay, hi, Josh. I just want to remind everyone that until I get to know you better to please say your name when responding or asking a question, okay? All right. So, Josh, what are your thoughts?

Josh, Student [00:02:05] It seems like he's trying to say that black English is a language and not a dialect.

Paulette Oke, MA [00:02:09] Okay, that's good. But how does a language differ from a dialect? Can anyone add to Josh's response? Okay, let's look at it this way. How does Baldwin want us to distinguish between the two? Can you say your name?

Taniya, Student [00:02:26] I'm Taniya. He defines dialect based on the way one speaks a language in their community.

Paulette Oke, MA [00:02:32] Okay, but how does that differ from a language?

Student [00:02:38] Well, a language is real and a dialect is made up by people.

Paulette Oke, MA [00:02:42] Okay, I can see why you say that, but when comparing a language to a dialect, how do they differ?

Student [00:02:47] A language is like Spanish or French or English.

Paulette Oke, MA [00:02:52] Well, yes, that's true. But when comparing a language to a dialect, how does Baldwin want us to consider the differences between the two? Okay, Baldwin wants us to consider how different groups of people speak the same language. For example, people in Senegal speak French because they were colonized by the French. People in Martinique speak French because they were enslaved by the French. And African Americans speak English because the people who enslaved them were English-speaking. And each group uses a common language differently.

Paulette Oke, MA [00:03:33] So before we end for today, today, I would like for you all to complete a self-grading reflection form. As stated earlier in the class, class discussions are an important part of class, yes? And your participation is required. So I'd just like you to evaluate yourself, how you think you did, okay?

Paulette Oke, MA [00:04:04] Yes, your name?

Jason, Student [00:04:04] Uh, Jason. How much is this going to be worth? Like, like what part of the final grade is this going to make up?

Paulette Oke, MA [00:04:12] Okay, class participation is 20% of your final grade and your course reflections will factor into that grade.

Jason, Student [00:04:20] Oh. Okay.

Josh, Student [00:04:23] It asks here if we did the reading. Does that mean the response we submitted online or or do we get separate points for that?

Paulette Oke, MA [00:04:30] Both. Both factor into your grade. Yes, um, what is your name?

John, Student [00:04:37] I'm John. It asks on here about how much we contributed to class. Does it matter what we said? Like, if I agreed with someone, does that count?

Paulette Oke, MA [00:04:46] I don't think that I would count that as a contribution. It needs to be a bit more substantial.

John, Student [00:04:51] Can you give an example?