Teaching to the Teachers: Secondary Education English Students in the Introductory Linguistics Course

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Secondary Education Majors and Language Knowledge

Knowledge mandated by State and CCSS requirements is often just the tip of the language iceberg.
Making Language Relevant to the Secondary Education-English Student

Two *PA Dept of Education* Curricular Outcomes for Secondary Education-English Majors:

**Variation:**
“knowledge of dialects and registers” (PDE)

**Linguistic Change:**
“knowledge of linguistic change, etymologies, and processes of word formation” (PDE)
Making Language Relevant

We’ve found that EDUC courses do not cover the following topics:

- Connection between language and identity
- Connection between language and power
- Explanation of how and why language varies
- Appropriateness of language choice (not just right or wrong)
- Reasons why students might resist learning/using Academic American English
Making Language Relevant

Some of the ways we engage these topics:

- Exercises on language identity and code-switching – tracking their own language communities and those of others

- Exercises using the MLA Language Map – tracing language history and development in the USA

- Exercises on style, register, and text type – comparing registers, vocabulary, and tone in diverse contexts

- Exercises using the n-gram tool – tracing word history and development
THANK YOU

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