

Homework: Conversing Across Cultures *Composing an Imaginary Email*

Purpose: This homework assignment asks you to converse across two different cultural groups in order to establish greater understanding of (and appreciation for) global diversity and individual experiences of globalization. This is a creative, low-stakes assignment that will also help you prepare for your second paper.

Assignment: Choose two different *Globalization* essays that we have discussed so far and that represent two different cultural groups. Make sure that you are selecting essays that actually include the voices of members of those groups. For instance, Leonard describes his experiences with the Polar Eskimos, but he never actually includes their own personal anecdotes (he does not quote them). As such, we are only ever given Leonard's perspective. You want to make sure that you are choosing essays that give us direct access to the perspectives of people within that cultural group.

Examples:	EFL students from Traves's essay	Khaled Zaibak in Ali's essay
	EFL teachers in Traves's essay	Indian parents in Sharma's essay
	Muslim women in Ahmed's essay	Ahmed in her essay
	Ugandans in Hill's essay	Hill in his essay

You will want to choose two different cultural groups (and essays) based on **common themes, issues, ideas, and/or points of view** that both essays share. There has to be a shared topic of discussion in both essays (though they certainly do not need to have similar points of view on that topic!).

Examples: The Indian parents in Sharma's essay can converse with the EFL students in Traves's essays about the **pressure to learn English** and about **threats to local languages**. The EFL students in Traves's essay could also speak with the Muslim women in Ahmed's essay about **Western values** and **cultural identity**.

Once you have chosen your two distinct cultural groups, read back through both essays and **select one person from each cultural group** to establish communication between. Based on the exact words from those individuals, along with the additional context and observations provided by the author and/or others from that cultural group, you will **compose an imaginary email of at least 250 words (1 or 2 paragraphs)** in which you adopt the voice and perspective of the member of one cultural group (in essay #1) and write to a member of the different cultural group (in essay #2).

Example: You could choose an EFL student whom Traves interviews and an Indian parent whom Sharma interviews.

The purpose of your email will be to **share your own experiences** on shared theme-related issue that you have identified in both essays (e.g., English as a global language, Westernization, etc.), and to **establish points of convergence (common ground, similarities) and divergence (contrasts)** in both of your experiences. Be careful not to make assumptions (cultural or otherwise) about how one or both people might feel! Your discussion should be based on the actual content of the essay: the experiences, perspectives, background information, and the direct speech of the individuals and their cultural groups that you have selected. In your email, make sure to **include a direct quote** of the person to whom you're writing, and respond to what they say. Even though this is an imaginary email assignment, make sure to include proper **MLA parenthetical citation** for your quote. Be prepared to discuss and share with the class.