

PROJECT 3

This is the third of four projects to be assigned this semester in Linguistic Applications in ESL. It is due in class on **Tuesday, August 5, 2003.**



Introduction

Governments and other official bodies often find it in their interest to make policy concerning language use. In December 1996, in Oakland, California, a school board passed a language policy resolution that created a national stir.

For this project, you will read the text of the resolution and some commentary on the resolution. You will write a paper that summarizes the main points of your reading and presents your own view as a current or prospective ESL teacher.

Procedures

- 1) Review your textbook sections on African American English (from p. 459) and Latino English (from p. 465).
- 2) Read the Oakland School Board's 1996 Ebonics Resolution, at <http://www.jaedworks.com/shoebox/oakland-ebonics.html>.
- 3) Read *A Linguist Looks at the Ebonics Debate* by Charles J. Fillmore, University of California, Berkeley, at <http://www.cal.org/ebonics/ebfillmo.html>.
- 4) Read *Ebonics and Linguistic Science: Clarifying the Issues*, by Walt Wolfram (for the National Science Foundation), at <http://www.cal.org/ebonics/wolfram.html>.
- 5) Think about your own reaction to the Oakland School Board's resolution, as a current or prospective ESL teacher.
- 5) Write a 3-5 page paper in which you summarize the main points of the Oakland School Board's resolution and the issues raised once the resolution had been publicized. Explain and give reasons for your own point of view.

To hand in on August 5

- 1) Your 3-5 page paper