**Metalinguistic Awareness and Grammar Instruction**

**Essential Linguistic Principles:**

All languages are cognitively grammatical, including what we think of as slang.

Standard Written English has been codified over time. Unlike other English language varieties, SWE has well documented instances of use.

Surface structure: these elements vary from language to language (syntax and grammatical elements, such as semicolons and periods).

Deep structure: universal grammar; these elements remain from language to language (nouns, verbs, objects…).

**Practical application**

Mapping Exercise

* Divide the country into regions as you see fit
* Give each region a rating from 1-10 for most correct sounding English (1 bing least, 10 being most)
* Assess the results in a chart form

Grammatical Pet Peeves Chart

* Divide into groups of 4
* Make a collective list of grammatical pet peeves
* Assess the results in a chart form

Grammar Rants

* Choose a grammatical pet peeve and write a grammar rant
* Describe how the rule is typically misused
* Explain the implications of the misuse rule
* Describe why the misused grammar rule bothers you

Re-imagining the Grammar Rant

* Select one grammar rant from your group, and collectively re-write the paragraph using the conventions of another dialect (ex. Southern American English or African American English)
* Consult the “Do You Speak American?” website (<http://www.pbs.org/speak/>) for common features of African American English and the Southern States English website (<http://www.ic.arizona.edu/~lsp/Southern.html>) for common features of Southern American English.
* Consider the implications of choosing the specific grammatical style in writing these rants.