252: FIRST PAPER

Length: 2 – 4 pages
Weight: 10% of your final grade
Due Date: 1st class day after the Mid-term Test
Format: MLA, Times, 12pt, Double Space, etc…
Sources: At least 2 CITATIONS as defined below

- Academic journal article – 1 REQUIRED
  (online or print; academic book also OK)
- Other source – OPTIONAL
  (textbook, website, etc) (Opt. if you have 2 journal articles)

SEVERAL observations from natural speech are REQUIRED

Topics: A word or set of words that have a fuzzy (or funky) function in English

- “Like” as a conjunction (and other parts of speech/functions)
- The shifting of “water” from a non-count to a count noun (c.f. “Coke”)
- The uses of “So”, including as a qualifier (that was so cool…)
- The overlap & distinctions between “kind”, “type”, and “sort”
- The way “some” and “any” complement each other
- Varying uses of “bless” in conversation
- Varying uses of “Wicked”
- There’s + plural NP

Target: Meaningful analysis of real language in real situations
Avoid: Preaching about prescriptive rules

OPTIONAL PRESENTATION
Each student is welcome to do one presentation during the semester. Two main purposes for this are: (1) share cool information with the class and (2) help you improve your paper before you submit it for a grade. Due to time constraints I cannot let all students present on the second paper, so if you’d like to do a presentation earlier in the semester (on this paper), speak now…

- 3 – 7 minutes
- Informal presentation, but keep us awake & inform us
- Based on the topic of your paper
- Includes key information from your research (but not all of it)
- Expect (and be ready to incorporate) feedback from the class…
- Presentations will be made during the week before the Mid-term…
- Extra credit IS available for comments from peers that the presenter finds useful…
- Extra Credit MAY also be available for the presenter…
- I’m making this OPTIONAL, so if you don’t have something useful to say, don’t present!