

SITUATIONS AND STRATEGIES FOR INCORPORATING CODE-MESHING INTO TUTORING

Asking questions about voice and style:

- what is your identity as the writer of this paper?
- many international students link paper topics back to things they know from home: how can you make it clear how you relate to this topic?
- ➔ may be appropriate to introduce or explain code-meshing of languages/dialects
 - i.e. a Hispanic student writing about education inequality for Hispanic-Americans: may be appropriate to show solidarity or identity by incorporating some words in Spanish
- ➔ important not to make assumptions about identity; maybe only bring it up if the student explicitly articulates an identifying feature (“my family is Mexican”, “I’m from China”, “I grew up in a black neighborhood”, “I grew up speaking French at home”, etc.)

Asking questions about audience:

- who is/are the audience/s of this piece?
- what are the conventions for writing to that/those audience/s?
- audiences for first-year writing assignments are often peers in the class or other undergrads (that is, intelligent academics, but also peers)
- ➔ may be appropriate to introduce or explain code-meshing of registers or academic styles
 - examples of register meshing in the student’s discipline and how it might be used to explain complex processes
 - point out how writing a lab report requires different conventions than writing a literary analysis, which is different from writing an econ paper

Role-playing and free writing:

- encourage the writer to fully embody their identity as the writer of the paper, and have them imagine the tutor as a member of the different audiences of the piece
- ask the writer to either verbally explain or free-write about a specific point to those audiences

Identifying places in the paper for code-meshing:

- where is code-meshing going to be meaningful?
- where does it help to convey the argument?
 - climatic moments: passages where it is maximally important that the audience hear and understand the argument
 - reiteration or reinterpretation: passages where technical or complicated point may need to be made clearer for the reader
 - ➔ this strategy is used frequently in academic writing to interpret highly scientific or jargony passages; this may be a useful place to start for students new to code-meshing
 - inside jokes/shout-outs: passages which build solidarity with a specific audience or identify the author as a member of a specific linguistic population.