

Developing Argumentative Writing Assignments that involve Code-Meshing

Below are some questions to consider towards developing an assignment that will work for YOUR class. You can find sample student work, as well as sample assignment/project prompts, on our Code Meshing Website: dslab.lib.rochester.edu/code-meshing; <https://swang.digitalscholar.rochester.edu/code-meshing/>

What will you be asking students to do for their argumentative paper?

1. Develop an argument that *uses* code-meshing (that is, your students will be meshing in their own writing - Stella Wang's Code-Meshing Multi-Modal Research Project may be a good model)

- **How will you help them get started?**

- Can have students practice code-meshing as a way of emphasizing or reiterating a point made in scholarly language - this is often a natural “starting point” for those interested in meshing. (e.g. “translate this scientific study for your mom”, “write about this debate as if it were a chat conversation”, etc)

2. Develop an argument *about* a particular example of code-meshing

- **Who will be choosing the example text?**

- Instructor: Which text(s) spring to mind as being good ones for this?
- Students: How will you help them find texts that are good for this?

- **How will you help them get started?**

- Specific discussion about code-meshing?
 - What will you focus on?
 - Code meshing as a response to Race/Class/Power issues
 - Code meshing as a matter of Linguistic/Cultural identity
- General discussions about writing-related topics relevant to meshing:
 - audience, purpose, genre?
 - race, class, and power?
 - linguistic choices?
- Informal writing about their reaction to a particular text? (e.g. my “Untranslatables” assignment)

3. Develop an argument that explores code-meshing itself, or related issues, not tied to a particular text:

- **Research papers asking directly about code-meshing/code-switching**

- Various perspectives could be relevant: psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, language learning (see Graeme's research paper sample), cultural studies, race, class, power, politics, etc.

- **Research papers looking at questions relating to language/culture/power/etc. that are not necessarily directly *about* code-meshing, but may have connections**

- e.g. language within religious traditions (see sample research proposal), various questions relating to translation, second language learning and early childhood education, language preservation, etc.