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Cover Letter: Phase 3

The phase 3 research paper was my favorite assignment out of all my essays. I am so proud of how it turned out and it is one of the few assignments that feels like I dedicated my life to it haha. I was a lot more connected to the topic because it is a part of my culture and I witness it every day. For my research paper, I chose to explore the debate on whether Jamaican Creole should be standardized and placed on the same tier as Jamaican Standard English. While completing the research, I learned so much about Jamaica and the history. If I am being honest, I feel embarrassed that I am not aware of the issues and culture of Jamaica. I gained a lot of information and what made it even better was that I had my parents to ask questions and confirm the things I learned! Comparing my phase 1 and 2 assignments, I believe that my writing has improved tremendously. I was able to take the information I learned during phase 2 about rhetoric devises and apply it to my writing during phase 3.

While writing the paper, I made my audience the general public. With that, I assumed that the audience has absolutely no knowledge about Jamaican Creole and included a lot of background information. I also wanted my audience to visualize the language so they can see the similarities and included sentences written in JC. I even opened my paper and introduced the topic in JC so that it would engage the audience. My course learning outcome for writing this paper was to recognize the role of language attitudes and standards in empowering, oppressing, and hierarchizing languages and their users, and be open to communicating across different languages and cultures. I wanted to inform my audience of how language can either empower or oppress its user, as can be seen in my paper. The debate on JC standardization and my connection to the country was my reason for exploring this topic. My deep interest fueled my desire to cross all my t’s and dot my i’s.

Even more, rhetoric and evidence were important to me. I wanted to have an assertive, yet casual tone paired with visual data so that my audience is receptive. I believed that my assertiveness let my reader know that I am confident in my argument and that I am taking, but that I am not forcing my opinion on them. Rather, present it to them and let them decide for themselves. With that being said, I thought the best way to structure this essay was to begin it in support for standardization and then place my thesis towards the end. I am showing that I am open to opposing arguments and listen to what the other side has to say. Overall, this was my favorite assignment and I had a lot of fun doing it. I feel extremely confident in this paper and that I can actually witness the growth in my writing skills.