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Teaching to the Teachers: Secondary Education English Students in the Introductory Linguistics Course

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Linguistic Society of America

Advancing the Scientific Study of Language

Taking Linguistics Beyond Linguistics Programs and Departments

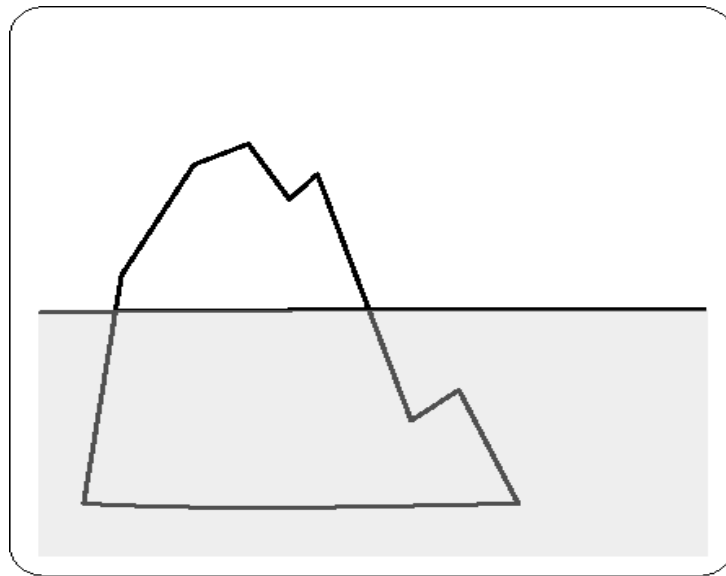
Teaching to the Teachers: Education majors in the Intro course

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Secondary Education Majors and Language Knowledge

Knowledge mandated by State and
CCSS requirements is often just the
tip of the language iceberg.



Making Language Relevant to the Secondary Education- English Student

**Two *PA Dept of Education* Curricular Outcomes
for Secondary Education-English Majors:**

Variation:

“knowledge of dialects and registers” (PDE)

Linguistic Change:

“knowledge of linguistic change, etymologies,
and processes of word formation” (PDE)

Making Language Relevant

We've found that EDUC courses do not cover the following topics:

- Connection between language and identity
- Connection between language and power
- Explanation of how and why language varies
- Appropriateness of language choice (not just right or wrong)
- Reasons why students might resist learning/using Academic American English

Making Language Relevant

Some of the ways we engage these topics:

- Exercises on language identity and code-switching – tracking their own language communities and those of others
- Exercises using the MLA Language Map – tracing language history and development in the USA
- Exercises on style, register, and text type – comparing registers, vocabulary, and tone in diverse contexts
- Exercises using the n-gram tool – tracing word history and development



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THANK YOU