

1. Voice!



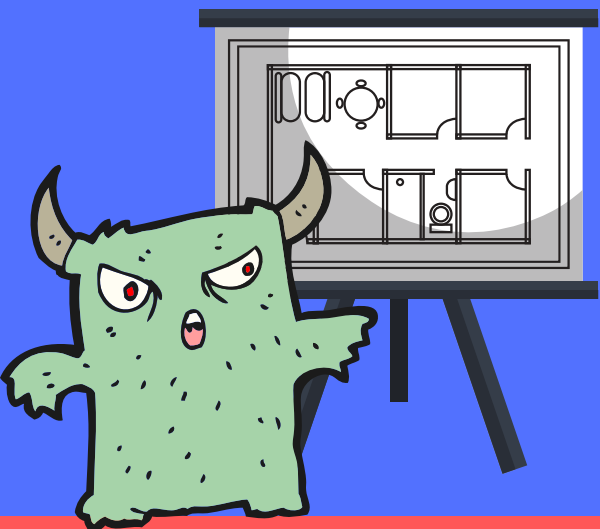
We've been talking a lot about "diction," and this is what I'm talking about here. What language have you chosen? Is it the best tool for the job? Can you explain WHY you chose the language you chose? It is FINE to use "English paper English" for this paper, if you think it's the best tool. It's also fine to use Spanglish, or the slang you use with your friends and so on. Diaz somehow manages to switch back and forth between formal and informal language, which is difficult to do, but is also fine. What is NOT fine is to be all over the place and not think about the language you use. I want you to choose the language FOR A REASON. You will be asked to explain why you used the language you did.

In other papers, this might be considered a thesis—but here, it's possible you might not outright state your thesis (or you might!) That said, your reader still does not want to walk away from reading your paper saying "Okay, so Pablo Escobar was a gangster and people call their friends gangsters as a compliment. So what? Who cares?" You want your reader to know something new or think about something in a new way after they read your paper. Maybe you might even be trying to convince them to DO something. Remember, I am asking you: why is this word important to you and your community and why should the reader care?

2. "So What?"



3. Structure



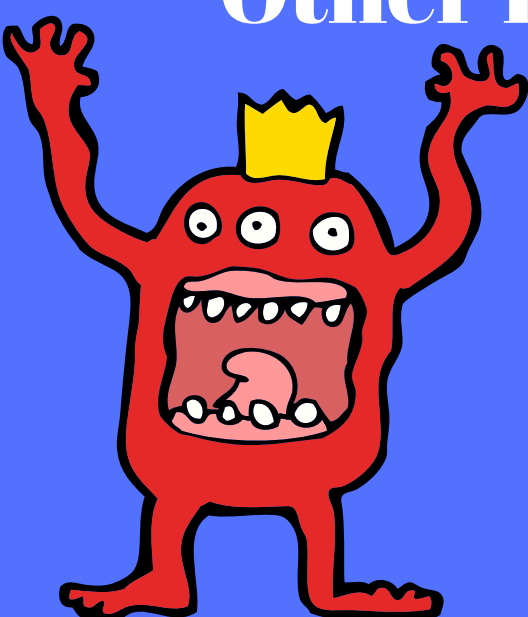
Diaz writes about the fuku using a storytelling structure: That is, he builds and builds until he gets to the point: "you may not believe in the fuku, but it believes in you!" Coates, on the other hand, writes with a more traditional essay structure and tells us fairly early on his point: "words have context and audience. There are words I can use and you cannot." EITHER of those structures (or a different structure) is fine for this essay. Here is what's not fine: no structure and no point.

Remember all the scenes we've written in class and all the work we've done with concrete, significant detail. Getting specific draws the reader in and makes them feel like they are there with you (as long as the detail is SIGNIFICANT.) Whether you are bringing in your own personal experience or you are describing research, paint a picture for your reader! Invite them into the scene with you!

4. Concrete, Significant Detail



Other Important Stuff



- At least 1000 words.
- Must show evidence of research (at least three sources.)
- Must cite properly and have a proper MLA bibliography.
- Must have proper in-text citation.
- Must have page numbers!
- Must be on time! (Regular late policy applies)