

Shantal Rodriguez

Professor Molly Mosher

FIQWS

05 December 2021

## I- Search Journal

### **Invention #1:**

Step 1 (List):

Interesting topics:

1. First born child
2. Navigating NYC with language
3. Urban Poetry
4. Dominican culture in NYC
5. Photography and language
6. Spanglish and what is lost in translation
7. Flim and language
8. Neo-soul and how words just groove on by

Step 2 (Freewrite):

**Topic 1** (First Born Child): I feel a personal impulse to this topic because I am the first daughter and was given the task of raising my brother at a very young age. I am choosing to take this topic towards the direction of having to be the third parent.

**Topic 2** (Navigating NYC with language): New Yorkers speak in their own way. We speak a little faster, we mix with other languages because of the diversity, and we sometimes forget the space between words when speaking.

**Topic 3** (Urban Poetry): I have written poetry for many years now, I also love to read the work of others through different decades and centuries. I have noticed the difference in techniques throughout poets also the obvious trends within the decade

Step 3 (Chart):

	What I know	What I'd like to find out
<b>Topic 1</b> First Born Child	There are first born children that are bombarded with the responsibility of being caregiver to their younger sibling(s).	What language attitudes do first born children use as a guide through a linguistic realm?
<b>Topic 2</b> Navigating NYC with language	New Yorkers (from the city) have a distinct dialect/accnt which they use to communicate with each other and others. This form of language is learned but never taught as a very real language used within New York City.	How do New Yorkers differ from southerners in regards to speech? How is a New York accent present in New Yorker's conversations?
<b>Topic 3</b> Urban Poetry	Urban poetry is approached differently rather than poetry from the Victorian era or Tang Dynasty era.	What are the notable differences? How does the change in language change the audience?

#### Step 4 (Research Questions):

Try to ask questions about your topic. You may begin by using the journalistic pentad “What, Who, Where, Why, or When.”

#### Topic 1: First Born Child

1. Which gender is largely impacted with the task of being a third parent?
2. In which cultures is this seen frequently?
3. Why specifically the first child? Is it like their first in line?
4. How is this present throughout history?
5. Code-switching in a superior or inferior settling?
6. How do first born children use unique language attitudes?

#### Topic 2: Navigating NYC with language

1. What are the linguistic features of New York City English?
2. What are the linguistic features on the opposite side of the spectrum?
3. Can New York City English be considered a language?
4. How is New Yorkers' English neglected?
5. How do other languages, present in New York City, merge into the one city-wide language?
6. How has the New York City way to evolved throughout the decades?

#### Topic 3: Urban Poetry

1. What are the unique features of urban poetry?
2. In what ways does urban poetry differ from Victorian poetry?
3. In what ways does urban poetry differ from Tang Dynasty poetry?
4. How has urban poetry evolved?
5. How does urban poetry change between different urban environments: NYC and LA?
6. How well in urban poetry translated across different regions?

## **Invention #2:**

**Question #1:** What sources would allow you to answer your question best? Consider both secondary sources (books, websites, etc.) and primary sources (experts on your topic, for example)?

I believe primary sources will allow me to answer my questions best. Experiences are personal and unique to those who tell them. Every personal story helps showcase how and why the eldest/first born becomes the parent.

**Question #2:** Do you have easy access to people who are experts on your topic? By the word “experts” I mean not only academics who may have written books or journal articles about your topics, but also people who practice an activity or are a part of a group you are interested in studying. For instance, to study bias in the workplace, it will be useful not only to read texts for information and statistics, but also interviews and people who may have experienced bias at work or who may be biased against other people at work.

I know a lot of people that had/have to raise their siblings, that includes my grandmother, friends, and myself.

**Question #3:** Do you need special skills to conduct interviews or observe your subjects? For example, do you need to learn how to write and conduct an interview or a survey or how to keep a researcher’s notebook? If so, where can you find information on how to do that effectively?

For interviews, a special skill might be listening but very thoroughly. Another skill for asking vague and specific questions, to help deepen the value of the interview/ survey.

## **My Process:**

Today, I will conduct an interview on my friend. Her name is Ashley. There is nothing I don't already know but in her own words would be nice lol. We were raised together but she was an only child for most of her life and now is not. I choose to interview her because I feel we are comfortable enough to have this type of conversation with (making it easy for me) and having know that she became care-giver after already having a set lifestyle adds a new perspective that my grandmother or myself could bring.

My keys words during this search are: first born, third parent, and care-giver. Looking for article is harder than I thought; I find a lot of articles that talked about birth order and parent-child relationship with a concentration on the first born child. I have to add more key words like younger/ older sibling and rasing.

Alright, my grandmother is coming to the US soon and I find it easier to interview her in person rather than through the phone. I am now going to create a serious of questions to ask her. You may be saying to yourself " Why? Didn't she interview her friend already...". The answer is yes but I have to ask a different seris of question being that both circumstances differ (which you'll find out soon).

I find myself to be procrastinating. I don't like to touch into myself like my personal life in detail. I can say anything really about my life but in detail uff, but tis the topic I chose. I am strengthen my diary today. I am going to try and add more detail and ask myself how does my language differ and in what ways did I code-switich and why.

## Comparative Source Report:

<b>Name:</b>  Shantal Rodriguez
<b>Research Topic or Question:</b>  First born children that become the third parent learn how to be “very responsible” teenagers, this is evident in their language performance

<b>Source 1: (full citation)</b>  <b>Garcia, Maria. Personal interview.</b>	
<b>Author information (rhetorical precis)</b>  Grandmother	
<b>Summary of the information that will be used in your research paper. This doesn't mean a summary of the source. It means what specific information you are using from this source.</b>	She provided information about her childhood and care-taking experience.
<b>Quotable text? The research paper will need specific quotes from each text. Include a brief note on how the quote will be used (evidence, example, argument etc.)</b>	When asked why she had to become the care-taker of her siblings she said “ I was ordered to, she hated me and so it became my job but she never knew it sadden me”

<p><b>How will you use this information? Why does this source need to be included in your paper?</b></p> <p><b>What's its purpose?</b></p>	<p>This quote encapsulates the larger issue at hand: unesscarliy becoming a physical and emotional provider has a kid for your younger siblings.</p>
--	--

<p><b>Source 2: (full citation)</b></p> <p><b>Fermin, Ashley. Personal interview.</b></p>	
<p><b>Author information (rhetorical precis)</b></p> <p><b>High school student at La Guardia High School in Drama department.</b></p>	
<p><b>Summary of the information that will be used in your research paper. This doesn't mean a summary of the source. It means what specific information you are using from this source.</b></p>	<p>She provided information about her childhood and care-taking experience.</p>
<p><b>Quotable text? The research paper will need specific quotes from each text. Include a brief note on how the quote will be used (evidence, example, argument etc.)</b></p>	<p>Ashley stated that caretaking replaced what would've been memorable experiences as a high school junior with the task of maintaining the health and well-being of a toddler, saying "I'm expected to just drop my life".</p>

<p><b>How will you use this information? Why does this source need to be included in your paper?</b></p> <p><b>What's its purpose?</b></p>	<p>I will incorporate her views on caretaking and including and comparing the analysis of her cognitive development.</p>
--	--

<p><b>Source 3: (full citation)</b></p> <p>Brody, Gene H., and Velma McBride Murry. "Sibling Socialization of Competence in Rural, Single-Parent African American Families." <i>Journal of Marriage and Family</i>, vol. 63, no. 4, [Wiley, National Council on Family Relations], 2001, pp. 996–1008, <a href="http://www.jstor.org/stable/3599810">http://www.jstor.org/stable/3599810</a>..</p>	
<p><b>Author information (rhetorical precis)</b></p> <p>Professor in Distinguished Research, Gene Howard Brody of Human Development and Family Science in the University of Georgia under the College of Family and Consumer Sciences</p> <p>African American psychologist and sociologist Velma McBride Murry is the Lois Autrey Betts Chair in Education and Human Development and Joe B. Wyatt Distinguished University Professor at Vanderbilt University</p>	
<p><b>Summary of the information that will be used in your research paper. This doesn't mean a summary of the source. It means what specific information you are using from this source.</b></p>	<p>This article encapsulates the responsibilities taken by the older sibling in responses to their younger siblings. The authors' focus for this article is centered around Black single parent households.</p>



<p><b>Quotable text? The research paper will need specific quotes from each text. Include a brief note on how the quote will be used (evidence, example, argument etc.)</b></p>	<p>“It is common in these cultures for preadolescent children to assume caregiving and socialization responsibilities for their younger siblings while their parents work at the agrarian and non-agrarian tasks that are essential to the family's subsistence. African American families also have a long tradition of assigning child care and socialization roles to older siblings. Based upon patterns of family life that were established in African societies and modified in response to the demands of enslavement in America (Sudarkasa, 1988)” (996)</p>
<p><b>How will you use this information? Why does this source need to be included in your paper?</b></p> <p><b>What's its purpose?</b></p>	<p>This article will help provide a clear list of tasks that shifts the eldest child into a parental figure.</p>

<p><b>Source 4: (full citation)</b></p> <p>Denby, Ramona W., and Jessica Ayala. “Am I My Brother’s Keeper: Adult Siblings Raising Younger Siblings.” <i>Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment</i>, vol. 23, no. 2, Taylor &amp; Francis Group, 2013, pp. 193–210, <a href="https://doi.org/10.1080/10911359.2013.747353">https://doi.org/10.1080/10911359.2013.747353</a>.</p>
<p><b>Author information (rhetorical precis)</b></p> <p>Ramona Denby- Brinsonis Dean of Chapel Hill School of Social Work and Professor at the University of North Carolina</p> <p>Professor Jessica Ayala at the School of Social Work in University of Nevada</p>

<p><b>Summary of the information that will be used in your research paper. This doesn't mean a summary of the source. It means what specific information you are using from this source.</b></p>	<p>This article references the life of an adult raising their younger siblings and showcases in what ways that is a challenge.</p>
<p><b>Quotable text? The research paper will need specific quotes from each text. Include a brief note on how the quote will be used (evidence, example, argument etc.)</b></p>	<p>“When an older sibling assumes care for younger siblings, questions of whether to maintain a sibling-to-sibling relationship or begin a parent/sibling-to-sibling relationship loom. The transition is complex and becomes convoluted by the fact that many adult sibling caregivers have already provided day-to-day direct care of their younger siblings” (5)</p>
<p><b>How will you use this information? Why does this source need to be included in your paper?</b></p> <p><b>What's its purpose?</b></p>	<p>I will use this to reason why they struggle and connect this with language</p>

<p><b>Source 5: (full citation)</b></p> <p>Edwards, John. Multilingualism, Taylor &amp; Francis Group, 1994. ProQuest Ebook Central, pp. 89-118, <a href="https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/ccny-ebooks/detail.action?docID=166827">https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/ccny-ebooks/detail.action?docID=166827</a>.</p>
<p><b>Author information (rhetorical precis)</b></p> <p>John Edwards is a member of the Faculty of History and a Research Fellow at the Modern Languages Faculty, University of Oxford</p>

<p><b>Summary of the information that will be used in your research paper. This doesn't mean a summary of the source. It means what specific information you are using from this source.</b></p>	<p>This article talks about how language is key in perpetuating notions. The way we use language is essential in understanding society around use.</p>
<p><b>Quotable text? The research paper will need specific quotes from each text. Include a brief note on how the quote will be used (evidence, example, argument etc.)</b></p>	<p>“Although not without some methodological problems, this study demonstrates that what people think and feel may not always be reflected in what they do. There are, of course, a great many reasons why this should be so, ranging from immediate self-interest, to the desire to avoid embarrassment, to a difference between views of an abstraction (members of a given ethnic group, for example) and of concrete instances.” (Edwards 98)</p>
<p><b>How will you use this information? Why does this source need to be included in your paper?</b></p> <p><b>What's its purpose?</b></p>	<p>I decided to use this article because it can help further my claim that first born children's usage language changes to fit their dominant and submissive personas based on settling.</p>

<p><b>Source 6: (full citation)</b></p> <p>nautica, @lilastroangel. “I'm also the older sibling of eight children that I had a very direct hand in raising. When people complain about kids or shit on kids or say things like ‘oh I hate kids kids are horrible’ it genuinely hurts my feelings because my siblings are the only reason I’m still alive”. Twitter, 30 Sep 2021.</p>
<p><b>Author information (rhetorical precis)</b></p> <p><b>Avid user of twitter</b></p>

<p><b>Summary of the information that will be used in your research paper. This doesn't mean a summary of the source. It means what specific information you are using from this source.</b></p>	<p>In summary, this person shows how their own life is devoted to the care of their siblings and somber feeling is clouded over the thought of not passively enjoying the responsibility of providing.</p>
<p><b>Quotable text? The research paper will need specific quotes from each text. Include a brief note on how the quote will be used (evidence, example, argument etc.)</b></p>	<p>“I'm also the older sibling of eight children that I had a very direct hand in raising. When people complain about kids or shit on kids or say things like ‘oh I hate kids kids are horrible’ it genuinely hurts my feelings because my siblings are the only reason I'm still alive” (nautica)</p>
<p><b>How will you use this information? Why does this source need to be included in your paper?</b></p> <p><b>What's its purpose?</b></p>	<p>The language used here when referring to her younger sibling, my kids, there is a sense of ownership. The pressure on responsibility shifts the language we use to address our loved one. She knew that to state the level of endearment she couldn't continue to use, younger siblings, she said my kids.</p>

<p><b>Source 7: (full citation)</b></p> <p>Rossum, Emmy, performer. Shameless, Showtime, 2011- 2021, Netflix, <a href="http://www.netflix.com">www.netflix.com</a>.</p>
<p><b>Author information (rhetorical precis)</b></p> <p><b>Award winning show</b></p>

<p><b>Summary of the information that will be used in your research paper. This doesn't mean a summary of the source. It means what specific information you are using from this source.</b></p>	<p>Fiona, the eldest daughter, is left in charge to raise her 5 younger siblings. Their mother left, leaving the kids to fend for themselves. Their alcoholic and addict father never offered a hand of help and instead depended on Fiona at times.</p>
<p><b>Quotable text? The research paper will need specific quotes from each text. Include a brief note on how the quote will be used (evidence, example, argument etc.)</b></p>	<p>Fiona Gallagher to her father Frank Gallagher, "Fiona: I was nine! Nine, and taking care of you. Taking care of all of us. I was in fourth grade, dragging your ass passed out in front of the yard so you wouldn't freeze to death. Staying up all night with Ian when he had chicken pox; I washed Carl's shitty diapers; I picked lice out of Liam's hair; and I was here when Debbie got her first period; not Monica; me."(Shameless (US) season 7 episode 12)</p>
<p><b>How will you use this information? Why does this source need to be included in your paper?</b></p> <p><b>What's its purpose?</b></p>	<p>This show is a great example in providing a visual of what it looks like to be a first born child. What I also love about this show is how responsibility shifts down by age but also by gender in certain aspects.</p>

<p><b>Source 8: (full citation)</b></p> <p>Lamothe, Cindy. "When Kids Have to Act like Parents, It Affects Them for Life." The Atlantic, Atlantic Media Company, 16 May 2021, <a href="https://www.theatlantic.com/family/archive/2017/10/when-kids-have-to-parent-their-siblings-it-affects-them-for-life/543975/">https://www.theatlantic.com/family/archive/2017/10/when-kids-have-to-parent-their-siblings-it-affects-them-for-life/543975/</a>.</p>
<p><b>Author information (rhetorical precis)</b></p> <p>Cindy Lamothe is a writer and journalist based in Guatemala</p>

<p><b>Summary of the information that will be used in your research paper. This doesn't mean a summary of the source. It means what specific information you are using from this source.</b></p>	<p>This article is a conversation held with different people, mostly women, who were in charge of raising their younger siblings. They explore the challenges that come with this task and how it significantly changed their life.</p>
<p><b>Quotable text? The research paper will need specific quotes from each text. Include a brief note on how the quote will be used (evidence, example, argument etc.)</b></p>	<p>“Amy K. Nuttall, an assistant professor in human development and family studies at Michigan State University, told me. This may account for why some parentified siblings who come from abusive homes end up maintaining close, albeit complex, bonds into adulthood, with some ‘continuing to attempt to fill parental needs at the expense of their own.’”</p>
<p><b>How will you use this information? Why does this source need to be included in your paper?</b></p> <p><b>What's its purpose?</b></p>	<p>I have chosen this article because it contains multiple sources in one paper that allows me to analyze several situations and zero in on the differences, more specifically, the similarities in life and language among the people.</p>

**Annotated Source #1 (Ashley's interview):**

 [Ashley's Interview.pdf](#)

**Annotated Source #2 (Mamá's interview):**

 [Grandmother's interview.pdf](#)

**Shameless analysis:**

 [Shameless Analysis.pdf](#)

## **Research Paper:**

First born children, like any other person, have to navigate the world and most people use language. Language is a crucial part of our development as it is a pipeline to understand social cues, norms, and our own place in the world. There are a certain demographic of first born children that become a third parent to their sibling: caring for them mentally, physically, and in some cases financially. First born children are tasked with the difficult responsibility of caring for their own safety and security to maintain the same for their siblings. If the first and/or second parent are still involved in some way, first-borns' have to learn to communicate differently for every aspect of their life, [dominant] parent to their siblings, [submissive] child to their parent(s), and regular student [equal to their peers]. Code-switching is an (un)conscious skill that is manifested through managing different forms of language to accurately conform to the listener's norms.

The job of being care-taker can be defined differently by those imposed with the task. Ramona Denby- Brinsonis Dean of Chapel Hill School of Social Work and Professor at the University of North Carolina and Professor Jessica Ayala at the School of Social Work in University of Nevada wrote "Am I My Brother's Keeper: Adult Siblings Raising Younger Siblings.". This article references the life of an adult raising their younger siblings and showcases in what ways that is a challenge, saying, "When an older sibling assumes care for younger siblings, questions of whether to maintain a sibling-to-sibling relationship or begin a parent/sibling-to-sibling relationship loom. The transition is complex and becomes convoluted by the fact that many adult sibling caregivers have already provided day-to-day direct care of their younger siblings" (5). Ashley, a Drama major at La Guardia High School, stated that caretaking replaced what would've been memorable experiences as a high school junior with the task of maintaining the health and well-being of a toddler, saying "I'm expected to just drop my

life”. To understand the task, we must ask why does a kid have to become responsible for another [even younger than them]. I asked my grandmother why and she said “I was ordered to, she hated me and so it became my job but she never knew it sadden me”. This quote encapsulates the larger issue at hand: unesscarliy becoming a physical and emotional provider as a kid undermining your life to support another.

Verbal and bodily forms of language maintain a strain of communication between people. The socialization aspect of it catogorizes and stereotypes language, pushing for the use of multiple sturctures of expression. John Edwards, member of the Faculty of History and a Research Fellow at the Modern Languages Faculty within the University of Oxford, uses “Multilingualism” to talk about how language is key in perpetuating notions. The way we use language is essential in understanding society around use. Edwards’ notes, “Although not without some methodological problems, this study demonstrates that what people think and feel may not always be reflected in what they do. There are, of course, a great many reasons why this should be so, ranging from immediate self-interest, to the desire to avoid embarrassment, to a difference between views of an abstraction (members of a given ethnic group, for example) and of concrete instances” (98). Merely concentrating on eldest siblings, language is a way to manuver through their dominant and submissive personas based on settling. Like my grandmother said, the responsibility of caring for twelve siblings and her first son, whom she had at sixteen, sadden her but her mother never knew. She went on to mention “my childhood was traumatized by becoming a parent and by 16, I thought that was my only job”. Learning when to turn on and off the switch is vital in maintaining survival, for it protects the individual in censorship.



Code-switching/Socialization: Code-switching enables the alternating between two or more languages at the same time. This can mean between Spanish and English, or knowing when to use specific words around who. In “Code-Switching and Language Ideologies: Exploring Identity, Power, and Society in Dialectally Diverse Literature”, Professor Michelle D. Devereaux at Kennesaw State University and Professor Rebecca Wheeler at Christopher Newport University take this paper to express the likelihood of code-switching. Something worth mentioning is “In fact code-switching offers a perfect bridge to discuss language ideologies. Thus, exploring Calpurnia's language shift means we explore how the setting prompts her shift: we can see that the place differs (Calpurnia's church vs. the Finch's house), the people differ (Calpurnia's community vs. the Finches), and the purpose changes (language in community vs. on the job). These aspects-place, people, and purpose-all affect Calpurnia's choice speak one or another variety of English.” (96). First born children have to switch between speaking to their liabilities and speaking to their superiors. I remember having to censor the dialogue held with my mom because if in anyway I indicated that my brother was my son rather than hers’, she would be furious and I would have to accept whatever consequences that followed. I had to be cautious when to implement discipline to my brother and myself, just to avoid distress and discomfort.

I believe moving forward it would be substantial to introduce active language corresponding to care-taking. After digesting all the information provided, we must insert that said language on outside active language. Scrolling through twitter, I found myself reading, “I'm also the older sibling of eight children that I had a very direct hand in raising. When people complain about kids or shit on kids or say things like ‘oh I hate kids kids are horrible’ it genuinely hurts my feelings because my siblings are the only reason I’m still alive” (nautica). In summary, this person shows how their own life was devoted to the care of their siblings and

somber feeling is clouded over the thought of not passively enjoying the responsibility of providing. In addition, the show *Shameless*, is a great example in providing a visual of what it looks like to be a first born child. What I also love about this show is how responsibility shifts down by age but also by gender in certain aspects. Fiona Gallagher to her [absent, alcoholic, and addict] father Frank Gallagher, “I was nine! Nine, and taking care of you. Taking care of all of us. I was in fourth grade, dragging your ass passed out in front of the yard so you wouldn't freeze to death. Staying up all night with Ian when he had chicken pox; I washed Carl's shitty diapers; I picked lice out of Liam's hair; and I was here when Debbie got her first period; not Monica; me.”(Shameless (US) season 7 episode 12). Fiona says “I” nine times while frantically trying to explain to her father: she has been the sole provider. Furthermore, Cindy Lamothe is a writer and journalist based in Guatemala who wrote “When Kids Have to Act like Parents, It Affects Them for Life.” stating “Amy K. Nuttall, an assistant professor in human development and family studies at Michigan State University, told me. This may account for why some parentified siblings who come from abusive homes end up maintaining close, albeit complex, bonds into adulthood, with some ‘continuing to attempt to fill parental needs at the expense of their own.’”. First born children are burdened with supplying a support system and continue to do so for eternity.

First born children, who become third parents, maneuver their everyday using language. Language sustains communication and provides a road for nurturing. First borns’ use code-switching to survive a the responsibility of fostering a child. Subsequently, people of all circumstances have to manipulate language in order to achieve their goals.