

## **HW2: Mini-survey, 500-750 words**

You've already been introduced to lots of ways that language and dialect vary in Wisconsin — words, sounds and structures and by region and age and social groups of various kinds. This assignment is a chance for you to start exploring some particular kind of variation with a few friends or relatives. This should be driven by some very simple research question, as in the examples below.

Here's what you need to do:

- Identify something that varies in language in Wisconsin [e.g., anymore, once, cot/caught, bad, bag, fight/time vowels]
- Develop some questions to gather data about that. [See below.]
- Ask 5-10 people about the issue in question.
- Write up the results.

Examples of issues:

- tag questions [Do old people use more than younger people? Different ones?]
- bag/vague vowels [Do people from my family / home town all do this?]
- hiss/his (final devoicing) [Where is this found in Wisconsin? Is there an age diff.?)
- come with [How broad is the pattern: ride with? go with? 'We were in the Dells and the kids were with'?)

Examples of ways to gather data

- Ask direct questions [Do you say X? Know people who do?]
- Ask indirectly [What do you call the thing you cut paper / your nails / etc. with?]
- Get reactions to data, e.g. playing sounds [What does this word sound like? Where is this speaker from? What do you think about how people from Milwaukee/Sheboygan/Eau Claire speak?]

Write up

- What was your question?
- How did you gather data about it?
- What did you find?
- How would you go forward from here if you were going to continue with this?
- What would you change if you did this again?

**20 points**