

There are many different ways for people to express themselves, and this is greatly affected by where someone is from and what their background is. For example, a certain slang or dialect can be traced back to a certain group of people. Despite this, many of these groups are being told that their dialects aren't fit for an academic environment and that they're unprofessional. As stated in the video, "To teach students that the two language varieties cannot mix and must remain apart belies the claim of linguistic equality and replicates the same phony logic behind Jim Crow legislation - which held that the law recognized the equality of the races yet demanded their separation" (Taylor, 1:15-1:28). This ideology is harmful because it can cause students to question whether or not it's ok to express themselves through their own culture. It's important to understand that there is always a different perspective, and someone's way of expressing themselves will always be different in some capacity, yet that can still be held against someone in an academic setting. This can cause people to do something known as code-switching, which affects the dialect someone uses around a certain group of people or in a certain environment. As Taylor stated in the video, "I knew that I could say certain things around one teacher rather than another, especially within my graded assignments" (Taylor, 2:21-2:26). This quote emphasizes the stigma around the experiences many people have had when it comes to using the ways of expression they've always grown up with. At the end of the day, people are trying their best to grow and gain experience through learning, and instead of not letting people express themselves because they have different ways of doing so, we should take the time to listen anyway so that we create a more cohesive and overall better society.