

SLANG/GENDER FIELDWORK

Anthropology 101

Due: Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Purpose: To compare the slang used by University of Delaware females and males and to think about what language conveys about student identity.

What to Do: Make a list of the slang words/phrases that you hear students use, how many times you hear each word/phrase, and whether the speakers are males or females. You should collect a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 30 slang words/phrases. 30 will get you a better grade than 15!!!!

Report Outline: First, make a 5 column table that summarizes your data. The first column should list the slang words/phrases in order of frequency for all students combined – the most frequently used should be first, the least frequently used should be last. The second column should show the frequency of each word/phrase for all students combined. The third column should give the number of times that each word/phrase was said by females. The fourth column should give the number of times that each word/phrase was said by males. In each row the sum of the numbers in the third and fourth columns should be the same as the number in the second column. The fifth column should give the definition of each word/phrase. If you don't know what the word/phrase means, then leave its definition blank.

After your table is complete, then:

- 1) make a bullet-point list of reasons why you think there is variation for all students combined in the use of slang words/phrases (apart from gender, why don't all people have the same slang vocabularies? Why does the frequency with which certain words/phrases are used vary?)
- 2) make a bullet-point list of common themes shared by your slang words/phrases
- 3) make a bullet-point list of similarities in the slang words/phrases used by UD females and males
- 4) make a bullet-point list of differences in the slang words/phrases used by UD males and females

This exercise is worth 15 points. It should be no longer than two sides of a single piece of paper or two separate pages **stapled** together. The text should be **typed** double spaced with regular sized margins and font size. Points will be deducted for late assignments as indicated on the course syllabus.