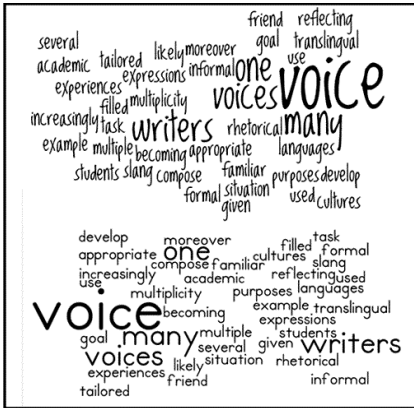


Voice



Definition

Many students are familiar with the idea of voice in writing, especially given the prominence of voice as a criterion in high school writing tests. In some ways, the familiarity of this concept can be helpful since for many writers, creating a written voice through which to communicate with others is a useful way to think of writing. At the same time, writing involves more than writers expressing themselves through voice: as important, it entails creating a voice that others can access, engage with, and interpret. And not least, voice as a concept in writing refers as well to the conventions defining it—in genres, in discourse communities, and in different media.

Significance

Most writers compose in many voices—a formal voice for academic purposes, one tai-

lored to the specific rhetorical situation, for example, and an informal voice to a friend, one likely filled with familiar expressions and slang. A goal for writers, then, is to develop several voices and use the appropriate voice for a given task. Moreover, with the multiple languages used by many students, voice is increasingly becoming translingual, reflecting a multiplicity of experiences and cultures.

Resources

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