

Psycholinguistics (LING/PSYC 27010)
Autumn, 2016 // University of Chicago

HOMEWORK #1

The goal of the first assignment is for you to find some language-science related topic that interests you (or evokes some kind of reaction at least), and just to put your thoughts on paper. The write-up can be very informal – I just want to read your reactions, thoughts, etc. about what you read (not a summary of it).

Here's some more specific instructions:

1. Go on the internet and spend some time googling topics related to “psycholinguistics,” “language processing,” and other key terms on the syllabus. Combine them with categories like “news,” “controversy,” “conspiracy,” or whatever you want to read about.
2. Select a news story, magazine article, op ed, journal article, blog post, or something else you found while googling, and read it. It can be the thing you found most interesting, something you are skeptical about, something you had never thought about before, something that made you angry – again, whatever you want to read about.
3. Then write a \approx 200 word reaction to whatever you read. Don't spend more than a sentence or two *summarizing* it, try to focus on explaining what you found interesting or uninteresting about it, why you found it annoying or cool or boring or important, etc.

And some quick hints:

- linguistics- and cognitive science-related subreddits will have links to all kinds of stuff
- if you're wondering whether some article works, the answer is almost certainly “yes”
- don't spend time worrying about grammar/spelling, style, formatting, and the like
- 200 words is just a ballpark figure – more important is to be thoughtful