SAMPLE PROMPT:

(All bolding and underlining was included by the professor in the original prompt.)

Every Language, including English, is constantly changing, from its **phonological system (1)** to its grammar and lexicon(vocabulary). For this assignment, identify TWO words or expressions that have entered the English spoken by you and your friends relatively recently (within the last 5 years). You don't need to prove when the word became popular –rely on your own sense of things as a "native." Please do not include words that you may have learned as part of expanding your Standard English vocabulary within the last five years, unless those words have taken on a non-standard meaning, for example "mad" or "sick."

For each word you identify:

1)Where and by whom is this word used, and what does it mean? Give an example.

2) Do you remember where you first heard this word, and from whom? **Discuss how, in your opinion (2)**, this word was introduced into the community of speakers that uses it. Be sure to identify the *mechanism* of introduction from our neologisms handout(**coinage, borrowing, blending (1)**, etc.). Explain why you think this is the mechanism of introduction for this word. Keep in mind that borrowing also happens between groups speaking the same language, not just different languages. For example, a word may spread **from an urban area to a rural area, from one region to another, from one ethnic group to another, or from one social group (3)**(e.g. skateboarders) to another.

3)After identifying two words that are relatively new, **explain why you think (2)** EACH ONE entered the language. How do they enrich or expand the range of expression available to speakers? What other social forces may be at work, including group membership, status, "fads" etc? How does knowing the different meanings of this word make you feel? Your final discussion should be clear, tie the different parts of the essay together, and bring the essay to the required length of 2 pages.

Your essay, including the identification of new words, should be **2 pages long**, double-spaced, with a normal-sized font and margins(you know what I mean). Your assignment will be graded based on the **completeness of the assignment,** the **quality of your discussion**, and **how well you demonstrate the understanding of key concepts(1)** from lecture and the neologisms handout.