ELN101 Research Paper 2

Research Paper 2: English as the Official Language in the U.S.

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On March 1, 2025, Executive Order 14224 designated English as the official language of the United States. How much do people know about the designation of English as the official language of the United States? What do they think about it? In this project, our class will design and administer one online survey. Each student will recruit at least five respondents and write an individual analysis answering a research question using the survey results. Your grade depends on the quality of your research and analysis, not on whether you or your respondents support or oppose the policy.

Your task: In this research paper, respond to the prompt below:

Topic

On March 1, 2025, Executive Order 14224 designated English as the official language of the United States. Design a survey question and answer your research question using the class survey results.

Process stages for this assignment

Step 1: Design the survey in class

Design a Survey

We will review a draft survey about the English as the official language in the U.S. The class will revise the wording, answer choices, and order of the online survey. Everyone in the class will use the same online survey for data collection.

Write your own research question (PLA Week 9) and identify the survey item or items that will answer it (PLA Week 10). Contribute a suggested question or revision to the class discussion. Because the survey has limited space, students may study the same item from different perspectives; not every proposed item will appear in the final version.

Step 2: Collect at least five responses

Responses

Recruit at least **five different people** who meet these conditions:

- They are 18 or older and currently live in the United States.
- They are not enrolled in this ELN101 section.
- They freely agree to participate and have not already completed our class survey.

Whenever possible, recruit people who are not current LaGuardia students. Current LaGuardia students outside our section may participate, but try to recruit beyond the college. Citizenship and knowledge of the policy are not required.

Use the survey link provided on Brightspace. Give each person your assigned **pollster code** (your initials and a two-digit random number; for example, TN32). The code identifies the student recruiter, not the respondent. The instructor will verify your five submissions using your pollster code.

Here is a sample invitation to participate in the survey:

> I am conducting a short survey for an Introduction to Bilingualism class at LaGuardia Community College. It asks about knowledge and opinions concerning English as the official U.S. language and takes about five

minutes. Participation is voluntary and the survey does not ask for your name and any information that identifies individuals. You are eligible to take this survey if (1) you are 18 or older, (2) live in the United States, (3) are NOT taking the ELN101, and (4) have not already taken this survey. My pollster code is ____. Please enter this code at the top of the survey. The link to the survey is ____.

Do not pressure anyone, coach answers, argue about the policy, or answer on someone else's behalf. Never invent responses or submit multiple responses from the same person. Do not collect names, email addresses, or contact information from the respondents. Respondents may skip questions or stop participating before submitting.

Analysis

Step 3: Write your individual two-page analysis Write approximately **500–650 words**, double-spaced, using a readable 12-point font and one-inch margins. Aim for two pages of prose. In your analysis, you should:

(1) State a clear, focused research question.
(2) Identify the survey items you selected and explain how they help answer your research question.
(3) Present appropriate descriptive statistics for the selected items, such as counts and percentages for categorical responses, or means and standard deviations when appropriate for numerical data. Report how many people answered each item and state the denominator for each percentage.
(4) Include one small table or chart directly related to your question.
(5) Explain what the data suggest and answer your research question.

Organize your analysis around these elements:

- **Research question:** What did you investigate and why does it matter for bilingualism or language policy?
- **Data and method:** Which items did you use, why did you select them, how many people answered them, and how did you summarize the responses?
- **Findings:** Answer your question using actual counts, percentages, or themes. Refer to your table or chart and explain the most useful pattern.
- **Interpretation and limitations:** Connect the findings to one course concept. Discuss at least two relevant limitations, such as recruitment through personal networks, small groups, skipped answers, language accessibility, or question wording. End with a conclusion that directly answers your research question.

Note about the use of AI

You may use AI to help calculate counts or percentages, create a chart, or suggest ways to group open-ended responses. Check its work against the actual data: AI can miscount, misread categories, or invent findings. Share only the instructor-provided dataset without identifying information. **Your written analysis must be your own writing.** Do not ask AI to draft, rewrite, or paraphrase your paper or submit AI-generated sentences as your own. You are responsible for every number and claim you submit.

If you use AI for analysis, attach a short disclosure stating the tool, what you asked it to do, and how you checked its output. For example: "I used [tool] to calculate response frequencies for Q7. I verified the totals and percentages in a spreadsheet and wrote the analysis myself." If you did not use AI, write "No AI used for this analysis."

1 Grading Rubric

Name: _____ Date: _____

Quality of the research question: States a clear, focused research question about English as the official language of the United States. The question can be addressed through survey responses and is relevant to bilingualism or language policy.	Score _____ / 25
Selection of relevant survey items: Selects items from the shared class survey that directly address the research question. Explains how each selected item contributes to answering the question and recognizes what its wording and response choices allow the student to conclude.	Score _____ / 25
Data collection: Collects responses to the shared class survey from at least five people. Explains the survey's purpose, makes participation voluntary, and avoids collecting unnecessary identifying information. Uses consistent instructions and documents when and how respondents were recruited.	Score _____ / 25
Documentation and reflection: Provides an organized account of the data-collection process without identifying respondents. Reflects on recruitment and data-collection challenges, identifies limitations of the sample, and explains how the process could be improved. Includes an accurate AI-use disclosure or a statement that no AI was used.	Score _____ / 20
Writing quality: Uses clear, organized prose and appropriate academic language. Errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation do not interfere with understanding.	Score _____ / 5
General Comments	Grade _____ / 100