

Course Project for Junior Linguists Class

You have been learning linguists do and how linguists think. You are asked to complete a term project that will be due on the last day of the class and that you can share with your classmates and your parents.

Here are some suggested projects:

1. *Do animals have language?*

You can create a poster that illustrates your answer to this question. You can look at the characteristics of languages and apply them to animal communication.

Remember that scientists use facts! They don't just think what is possible!

2. *Create a language game.*

We've played some language games in class. Can you come up with a language game of your own? Perhaps it could be a game about English sounds! Or English morphemes. It could even be something with sentences or definitions. You can use any aspect of language as the basis for a language game.

3. *Figure out how English puts consonant sounds together.*

You learned all the sounds that exist in English. The way English (and other languages) put their sounds together is called "sound distribution." Part of this distribution determines which consonant sounds can appear together and where in a word they can appear. For example, English words do not have a combination of "mw" in words. the sound at the end of the word *sing* (N) cannot appear at the beginning of a word. Can you figure out which sounds can't go together or can't appear in certain places in a word? You can make a poster to show what you find out.

4. *Investigate Morphemes.*

Choose several morphemes (like *geo* or *cardio*) and find as many words as you can that are made with those morphemes. Create a poster or some other method of sharing what you discover.

You don't have to do one of these projects. If you are interested in something about language, create a project to share with us!