

## APSU Writing Center

### Using all of your Languages as a Writing Resource

#### Translanguaging

- Translanguaging refers to the practice of using multiple languages simultaneously within your writing. This can benefit multilingual students as it allows them to express themselves fully during the brainstorming and drafting stage of the writing process.
- **Example:** Imagine writing about your favorite hobby in a language you're fluent in. Now, imagine doing the same in a language you're still learning, without using your main language for notes or drafts. The task becomes much harder. But if you could plan and draft in your main language, and then translate the final version, it would be easier and more accurate.

#### Strategies for Translanguaging

- **Brainstorm and Prewrite in your dominant language.**
  - Before writing, brainstorm, outline, and take notes in your dominant language. This approach allows you to develop ideas fully without language proficiency constraints. Whether through free writing, mind-mapping, listing ideas, or speaking aloud, this initial step sets a strong foundation.
- **Utilize Code-meshing**
  - Code-meshing involves seamlessly blending words or phrases from different languages within your writing. During the first draft, if you're unsure of a term in the language of your paper, use whichever language you know it best in. Translation can be done during the revision phase.
- **Practice Glossing or Side-notes**
  - When encountering challenging terms or concepts in your writing language, add glosses or side notes. Discuss these with peers to deepen your understanding.
- **Address Areas of Confusion**
  - Schedule sessions with a tutor at the APSU Writing Center for targeted support in improving specific aspects of your writing. Handouts covering the entire writing process are available, from brainstorming to finalizing your work.
- **Find a Language Conversation Group**
  - Pair up with fellow students who speak the same languages. Engage in discussions on researched topics, providing each other with verbal and written feedback on writing and ideas.
- **Reflect on Translanguaging**
  - Write a paragraph reflecting the utilization of translanguaging while writing academic essays. Does it benefit you or burden you? Would you recommend these strategies to other multilingual writers?
- **Begin Multilingual Reading Practices**
  - Read academic texts and literature in both your dominant language and the language of your academic writing. This exposure enhances vocabulary, comprehension, and familiarity.

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### References

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