

Debate #4: The Ebonics controversy erupted in 1996 after the Oakland school board passed a resolution to inform instructors of the legitimacy of AAVE (African American Vernacular English) and to train them in the specific linguistic features of this dialect. Further details on the goals and objectives of this resolution, and the linguistic understandings that inform this resolution, are discussed in the film "Black English as an American Dialect" (to be shown on Monday 3/17) and in class readings (including the Bonvillian book). You will debate the following question:

→Do you support the Oakland school board in their decision to implement this policy?

Pro (Yes)

Andrew Royer
Lisa Droege
Jessica Cox
Stephen Fetzer
Clare Hartigan
Erin Manna
Kaitlin Berger
Nyssa Shannon
Jordan Ziehl
Alexandra Simmel

Con (No)

Matt Bacon
Nathan Storey
William Baylor
Megan Shatzberger
Margaret Engesser
Cheryl Neifert
Joshua Stewart
Stacy Drackwicz
Sergio Martinez-Lamuela