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**December 10**

**Grammar**

**African American Vernacular English/"Standard English":**

- AAVE uses a subject and a pronoun, SE uses one or the other.

You wrote: My *mother she* went to the store.

In SE: My *mother* went to the store.

- AAVE drops the "s" on the verb when you use he or she (third person):

You wrote: My *mom say* they was in style.

In SE: My *mom says* they [are/were] in style.

- AAVE Zero copula rule (drops *is* or *are* between a subject (in this case, "they") and a verb (what's said *about* the subject — in this case that the shoes are raggedy). SE inserts *is* or *are*.

You wrote: I don't see how *they raggedy*.

In SE: I don't see how. They *are raggedy*.

**Punctuation:**

Use a comma when you are saying someone's name in conversation:

You wrote: "Mom why I have to wear these ugly shoes."

Correct use: "Mom, why I have to wear these ugly shoes."

Dialogue: Open up a novel that uses standard punctuation of dialogue and check for how the author punctuates dialogue. Pay attention to quotation marks, commas, capitals, and periods.

**Paragraphing:**

Start a new paragraph for each speaker. (See note above)