**Wassup, or, a Thing People Used To Say in the NinetiesTop of Form**

If you were trapped in a plummeting elevator with a rabbi from Sacramento, a priest from Detroit, and an imam from Atlanta, would you be able to figure out who was from where? Or would you mostly be concerned about dying in an elevator?

It’s time to test your ear for dialects. So, you know, the next time you're stuck in an elevator and *don't* need to think up an escape plan, you have something to do.

For each of the following steps to this activity, it's probably *a good idea to take a few notes*. That way, you can rely on them later when you’re asked questions about what you saw.

Head on over to PBS to take [this dialect quiz](http://www.pbs.org/speak/seatosea/americanvarieties/map/map.html). You'll see a map of the United States divided into dialect regions. On the left- and right-hand sides of the map, there are audio files of people speaking in different dialects. Hover your cursor over the arrows to listen to each vocal snippet. (If the arrow doesn't turn green, go ahead and skip that file and move on to the next one.) After you've listened to each file, make your best guess as to what region the speaker is from, and drag each letter to its corresponding region.

When you're finished, write up **a 150 to 300 word expository response** explaining your results. Your paragraph(s) should address the following questions:

* + Which dialects did you correctly guess? What clues did you rely on in making conclusions about the region of each speaker?
  + Which dialects did you guess incorrectly? What about the dialect made it challenging for you to recognize?

Stuck? Here are a few sentences from Ms. Simon’s paragraph:

*I correctly identified that Speaker A was from the Mid-Atlantic. The speaker used a diphthong in her pronunciation of the letter "O," which is characteristic of speakers in that region.  
    
However, I was unable to identify where Speaker B was from. He used short "t's" and long, flat "a's," which made me think he might have been from the mid-West. He wasn't.*

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