REFERENCE REPORT #1
Due Monday, January 10

Find a reference source (a journal article, chapter from a book, etc.) that seems interesting and potentially relevant to your research topic (or one of your possible topics). Write up a short discussion, including:

- A short (~1 sentence) reminder of the topic you’re exploring.
- Briefly summarize of the paper’s main ideas, and especially the points that are most closely connected to your project.
- Evaluate both the paper’s overall quality (is the author clear? convincing? interesting?) and its usefulness to you (do you want to follow up on these ideas? why (and which ones) or why not?).
- Choose one specific point in the paper that one could imaginably base a project on. Describe how a project could explore this; include a suggestion for specific data that one could usefully collect. None of this is binding; while it’s great to try to come up with something you might actually want to do, this is primarily intended as an exercise in learning to move from general topics to specific projects.

EXAMPLE: “Dinka is one of only three languages to have three contrastive vowel lengths” would be a usefully narrow starting point; “Dinka morphology makes unprecedentedly complex use of vowel quality, quantity, tone, and voice quality” is much too broad. The first could be explored through, for example, a perceptual experiment investigating the difficulty for English speakers of learning to distinguish among 2 vs. 3 vowel lengths.