Discussion Board/ Week 6

From NPR:

So you’re at work one day and you’re talking to your colleagues in that professional, polite, kind of buttoned-up voice that people use when they’re doing professional work stuff. Your mom or your friend or your partner calls on the phone and you answer. And without thinking, you start talking to them in an entirely different voice — still distinctly your voice, but a certain kind of your voice less suited for the office. You drop the g’s at the end of your verbs. Your previously undetectable accent — your easy Southern drawl or your sing-songy Caribbean lilt or your Spanish-inflected vowels or your New Yawker — is suddenly turned way, way up. You rush your mom or whomever off the phone in some less formal syntax (“Yo, I’mma holler at you later”), hang up and get back to work. Then you look up and you see your co-workers looking at you and wondering who the hell you’d morphed into for the last few minutes. That right there? That’s what it means to code-switch.

Code Switching: Watch these two video clips:

American Promise Trailer

Idris Code Switches

For this week’s discussion, write a summary of what you read and how it applies to the clips you saw. Then answer these questions:

- Do you code switch?
- What do you gain from it?
- Think about how you react to people who speak the way Idris speaks on the basketball court. Contrast that with the way you react to people who speak the way Idris speaks off the court. What assumptions do you make about people based on the way they speak?
- Do a search on the Internet for videos that illustrate “code switching” and share the ones you found most interesting!