

# Chapter 17: Research Remix: Soundwriting Studies of the English Language

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## 2. Katie Furr's Discourse Ethnography: University Wrestling Team

Katie Furr celebrates the unique discourse of a college wrestling team, focusing on ways language helps to build a community of brothers.

### Transcript

**Katie Furr:** Wrestling. A sport for boys who want to beat each other up every day. The truth is, though, these guys will receive their fair shares of beatings as well. So, where is the reward in this? Is this extremely physically taxing sport worth it in the end?

*[Audio of wrestling match plays for a few seconds before stopping: loud, overlapping voices of crowd, officials, a whistle.]*

**Katie:** Wrestling is kind of an odd sport that comes along with a lot of odd terminology.

**JW:** A first word they would hear would probably be sprawl. Uh, other types of terms may include high c. High c is a term that, um, stands for high crotch.

**JR:** Would be like, crank it. And then, shifting gears is also another term, basically for the exact same thing.

**JW:** For example, there's a move called Iowa or Hammerlock. Uh, terms called Fairfax roll, uh, barnyard.

**JR:** Grinding. Grind it is when, basically he wants us again, to go hard.

**Katie:** For members of the wrestling team, knowing these terms can mean the difference between winning and losing. However, it's a long, difficult journey before the wrestlers even make it to the mats to actually compete.

**JW:** I've found that, in my past two years of college wrestling, that, you know, a lot of these workouts are a lot tougher than what I've experienced in high school.

**JR:** I mean like, the workouts are really hard, and none of us really want to go through them.

**Katie:** But everything they go through, whether it's an exceptionally tough workout or a match where they gave their all, they don't have to go through alone.

**JR:** Because we do them all together, we feel closer. And not much can really break that.

**JW:** At the end of the day, when we can talk about it, laugh about it, and grieve with each other, um, about how bad they are, then that really builds relationships.

**Katie:** In fact, these hardships have welded these guys into a family of sorts.

**JR:** It builds a community in the sense of, like, a brotherhood.

**JW:** You know, at the end of the day, whether you win or lose, you're still on the team, you've still got your brothers on the team, that are there for you, and through that, there are definitely relationships being built.

**JR:** Nobody besides wrestlers I feel closer with.

**Katie:** Both of these guys built a familial identity for both themselves and for their teammates just by referring to each other as their brothers. And all of this crazy terminology and the insane physical demand that wrestling takes on them, because it's all the things that they experience together, a community is gradually being built. And the time that is put into the sport and spent with their teammates, that time binds them together. Because of these extremely close ties, their identities are being directly connected to this wrestling discourse community.