#4.a – “CRAFTING A PLAY” ASSIGNMENT – 5 points

Minimum word requirement: 500 words

(revised 09-17-14)

PURPOSE: The purpose of your “Crafting a Play” assignment is to increase your awareness of the technical and logistical aspects of writing and producing a successful one act.

PROCEDURE: Using your original “CREATING A CHARACTER” monologue, reshape it as a possible script for a one act play using the theatrical conventions as discussed from ‘NIGHT MOTHER and ZOO STORY.

For this assignment, the following theatrical conventions must be added to your monologue (or new script if you definitely do not like your current character):

1. **Name of your original one act play** – Pick an original name for your one act play
2. **Character** – Basic description of your character
3. **Scene/Author’s Note** – This serves as a basic introduction so that the reader may have a better idea of the setting. This also serves as the mechanism in which the playwright may dictate specifics within the play.
4. **Stage Directions (beginning of scene & during the scene)** – This helps to set up the desired action that occurs at the very beginning of the play. Stage directions are also used throughout the script as necessary.
5. **Directions/suggestions for the actors.** Your monologue obviously only includes one actor but this helps in the developing of acting activities or **BLOCKING** for the actors.
6. **Property and/or Set Piece List** - list of props & suggested set pieces

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO CHANGE YOUR MONOLOGUE & YOU DO NOT HAVE TO INSERT YOUR MONOLOGUE INTO THIS ASSIGNMENT!

SEE ADDITIONAL EXPLANATION ON NEXT PAGE!

*Use the following excerpts from ‘NIGHT MOTHER as examples of theatrical conventions that must be added to your monologue:*
NAME OF YOUR PLAY: Pick an original name for your one-act

CHARACTER: Thelma is Jessie’s mother, in her late fifties or early sixties. She has begun to feel her age and so takes it easy when she can, or when it serves her purposes to let someone help her. But she speaks quickly and enjoys talking. She believes that things are what she says they are. Her sturdiness is more a mental quality than a physical one, finally. She is chatty and nosy and this is her house.

THE SCENE/AUTHOR’S NOTE: The time is the present, with the action beginning about 8:15. Clocks onstage in the kitchen and on a table in the living room should run throughout the performance and be visible to the audience.

The play takes place in a relatively new house built way out a country road, with a living room and connecting kitchen and a center hall that leads off to the bedrooms. A pull cord…

STAGE DIRECTIONS
(beginning of the scene):
Mama hums some odd little tune as she stretches reach the cupcakes in a cabinet in the kitchen. She can’t see them, but she can feel around for them, and she’s eager to have one, so she’s working pretty hard at it. This may be...

(during the scene):
- MAMA: [Unwrapping the cupcake.] Jessie, it’s the last snowball, sugar.
- JESSIE: [Holding a towel that was on the stack of newspapers.] Towels you don’t want any more. (And picking up Mama’s snowball wrapper.) How about this swimming towel…

PROPERTY PLOT/LIST:

KITCHEN
- Percolator
- Spices & spice rack
- Hand lotion
- Dish soap
- Paper towels & rack
- Dish drainer
Scene Design

“NIGHT MOTHER”

Design by Heidi Landesman