#4.c - OBSERVATION ASSIGNMENT + DIALOGUE – 5 points
(revised 09-17-14)

Minimum word requirement: 1000 words *(500 words from your previously submitted “Observation” assignment + 500 words of new script for your characters.)*

FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT WRITE DIALOGUE FOR YOUR CHARACTERS...

PURPOSE: Now that you have observed activities of 2 or more persons, try to create the appropriate script that reinforces the activities that you have observed. By watching the activities, your words should correspond with the manner in which your “characters” moved and reacted to each other. As mentioned in class, typically playwrights write first, and then actors and directors “react” according to the script. This exercise is to increase your understanding of how words and actions must work together on-stage as in life!

PROCEDURE: Use the “Observation” assignment that you just completed and write 500 additional words of script for your characters. This time you are writing dialogue for your characters.

THE FOLLOWING THEATRICAL CONVENTIONS MUST BE CONSIDERED AND BE PART OF YOUR WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT: *(but these should already be in your “Observation” assignment!)*

- **SETTING THE SCENE** - similar to ‘NIGHT MOTHER sample below

- **STAGE DIRECTIONS (beginning of scene):** – this is similar to the “Crafting a Play” assignment, but this time you are noting the setting when you first encounter your characters.

- **DIRECTIONS/SUGGESTIONS FOR THE ACTORS** – this is also similar to the “Crafting a Play” assignment, but this time you are merely observing the activities and the manner in which your characters relate to the setting and to each other. You are merely observing the normal activities or **BLOCKING** for the characters, and you will put this in a narrative form and NOT combined with text (as in ‘NIGHT MOTHER below.)

- **PROPERTY & SET PIECE LIST** - list of props used by the characters. This should include chairs, tables, etc. This helps to create a “Set Design” for your observation as well as a list of hand props.
Once again, use the following excerpts from ‘NIGHT MOTHER as examples of items in your Observation:

**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 by the audient.

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 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…

**STAGE DIRECTIONS (during scene):**

**FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT WRITE DIALOGUE FOR YOUR CHARACTERS**

- 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