

☆Writing Dialog☆

Part I

1) In your group, have a 3 to 4 minute conversation about one of the following topics (or more than one if you'd like):

Snow College Breakfast Koalas

2) Before you begin, have **each person** set up their phone to record the conversation (*if you don't have a phone to do this/your phone has no extra space, I have recorders, please ask me for one*).

3) After 3 to 4 minutes of the conversation, stop the recording (you can keep chatting if you are deep in conversation – but no need to record more than 4 minutes).

Part II

4) Next... put the conversation into formal screenplay format.

Needs:

a) **Scene Heading**

- if you are in the classroom it should read: INT. CLASSROOM – DAY
- in the commons: INT. COMMONS – DAY or the library: INT. LIBRARY – DAY
- etc... but no more info than something like this

b) **Action** (the description of your setting/scene – describe telling & useful things about the room and the people; remember, just what you can see & hear)

- include action lines throughout the scene, in between the dialog – what are your fellow conversationalists doing physically? What else is happening in the space?

c) **Character** (a name – feel free to fictionalize names)

d) **Dialog** (yep, the dialog you recorded; try to transcribe as best you can the conversation – the interruptions, the unfinished sentences, slang, distractions, tangents, etc...)

e) **Parentheticals** are optional – but might help the reader understand the conversations better (there is a drop-down for formatting this in Celtx, please use it)

→ examples of things that go in parentheticals:

- (loudly); (animated); (whispering); (to *person's name*) - this would be if one of you was speaking directly to one person, not the group; (coughing); (laughing); (sarcastic); etc.

5) Aim for more than two full pages of screenplay.

☆**purpose:** practice writing real conversations: real voices, real timing, real structure☆