Dialog in a Screenplay

Purpose: To write a real-life (real voices, real timing, real structure) conversation by recording a conversation (making note of the surroundings/setting) and then turning the conversation into a dialog-based scene in formal screenplay format via Celtx.

Steps:

1) Using an audio recorder*, record an ordinary/everyday conversation.
- This is NOT an exercise in eavesdropping, so if the conversation is not your business or becomes something you shouldn't record, DON'T… instead record another conversation.
- Feel free to let the people conversing know you are recording them, but with hope that will not change the genuineness of the dialog.
- Record about a minute or two of conversation – and attempt to get the start of the conversation/new topic so you know what is being discussed.

2) In Celtx, put the conversation into formal screenplay format.
Needs** - these are all in the formatting drop-down list in Celtx:
1**) Scene Heading**,
2) **Action** (the description of your setting/scene, remember, just what you can SEE - not everything, just what's helpful/necessary***),
3) **Character** (a name – feel free to fictionalize names),
4) **Dialog** (yep, the dialog you recorded – it does not have to be exact, but the point is to write a real conversation – including slang, unfinished sentences/thoughts, people being cut-off…), and
5) things like **Parentheticals** are optional – but be sure you add them correctly – check out actual screenplays for how-tos/examples***

3) Your scene should be 2 pages, give or take a little.

4) A paper copy of your scene is due at the start of class on Tuesday, October 24.

*If you don't have a phone/device that can record audio, borrow an audio recorder from the library – see me.

** [What to include in a scene](#) (there are many, many examples out there, this is just one of them – and don't worry about the formatting tips, that's what you have Celtx for – instead use a site like this to figure out what needs to be included/not included).

*** Here are some sites with screenplays for you to look at again: [SimplyScripts](#), [Movie Scripts and Screenplays](#), [IMSDb](#) (there are plenty of other sites, look up your favorite movie, it's probably out there.…)