

## Assignment 5: Interior and Dramatic Monologue

Interior monologue is a conversation you have with yourself inside your head.

1. Think of three conflicts – three obstacles or problems you are trying to overcome.
2. Write down, as if you were talking to yourself, what you would say in your mind as you were debating the answers to these three conflicts or problems.
3. By the end of the “conversation” with yourself, put into words the answers you have figured out in your head as you have debated about these three problems.
4. Write at least one page.

Example: I don't know how I'm going to tell Fred about what I did to his car. He's going to be really mad when he finds out that I ...

Writing Dramatic Monologue –

Write a dialogue (conversation) between a smoker and a non-smoker. Write at least one and one-half pages. You may also choose a dialogue of your own.

You may give each of the characters his or her own personality traits. Maybe a long-time smoker is talking to his doctor about trying to quit smoking. Or maybe a young teenager is trying to talk his friend into smoking. Or perhaps a parent is talking to his or her son or daughter about smoking. You decide who the characters are, which one is the smoker, and why the conversation is taking place.

Paragraph the dialogue properly. Start a new paragraph every time a different person starts talking – even if the speaker says only a few words.

Punctuate the dialogue properly. Put quotation marks “ ” only around the exact words each character says.

If you get confused, look at a novel or a magazine and notice how the dialogue is paragraphed and punctuated.

Make the conversation as real as you can. Include words of description, so the reader knows what the scene looks like – where the people are, and how they are moving about or gesturing as they talk. Write the dialogue so that the reader feels like the conversation could really have happened.

*Read it aloud* when you are finished, then make any corrections.

Example:

“Hey, Marie, hand me my cigarettes, will ya'?” Charlie called out.

Marie hesitated, her hand on the TV dial. She wondered if this was a good time to talk to her boyfriend about his three-pack-a-day habit. “Charlie,” she said softly, “I thought you said you wanted to cut down.”

“Look,” Charlie exploded, “the doctor already gave me a lecture. I don't need one from you. Just give me my pack.”