Writing Dialogue

**Directions:**  Select one of the following scenarios, and write a brief dialogue (minimum of 1-2 pages) between two characters. Remember to follow all rules of dialogue writing that we have discussed in class. Your dialogue may be funny, but *must be school appropriate*. \*\*\*Before your characters begin talking, you must create an introductory paragraph (no dialogue) that (1) establishes the setting, (2) sets up the meeting of your characters, and (3) is written in 1st person

**Scenarios** (pick 1):

1. Boy meets girl, and it’s love at first sight
2. Stubborn person needs help changing a flat tire
3. Waiter spills food on irritable customer
4. Two terrified friends on a plane are about to attempt their first skydive
5. Lost person asks the wrong person for directions
6. Friend has to break the news to another friend that their car (borrowed by friend #1) has been stolen
7. Person tries to talk his/her way out of a speeding ticket
8. Person has computer problems and tries to get technical help over the phone, but he/she is having a difficult time explaining what is wrong.
9. Neighbor cuts down tree on the wrong side of the property line and must explain his blunder to his angry neighbor
10. It’s Christmas Eve, and two customers fight over who should get the last iPod in the store

**Grading Rubric**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Rules of Dialogue are followed** | **Opening paragraph** | **Mechanics (grammar, punctuation, spelling, etc.)** | **Length** |
| **4** | **All rules of dialogue are followed: (1) New speaker = new paragraph, (2) What is said is in quotes, (3) Punctuation is in quotes, (4) First letter of what is said is capitalized, (5) Thoughts are italicized and not in quotes** | **The opening paragraph (1) establishes the time of the setting, (2) establishes the place of the setting, (3) sets up the meeting of the characters, and (4) is written in 1st person** | **The paper contains no errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling, etc.** | **The paper is 2 or more pages in length (typed)** |
| **3** | **Most (3/5) rules of dialogue are followed** | **The paper has 3 out of the 4 characteristics listed above** | **The paper contains few errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling, etc.** | **The paper is between 1-2 pages in length (typed)** |
| **2** | **Some (2/5) rules of dialogue are followed** | **The paper has 2 out of the 4 characteristics listed above** | **The paper has quite a few errors in grammar, punctuation, and spelling, but the paper is still easy to read** | **The paper is more than ½ page in length (typed)** |
| **1** | **Few (1/5) rules of dialogue are followed** | **The paper has 1 out of the 4 characteristics listed above** | **The paper has enough errors in grammar, punctuation, and spelling that it’s difficult to read** | **The paper is less than ½ page in length (typed)** |
| **0** | **The author did not follow the rules of dialogue** | **The paper has none of the characteristics listed above** | **The paper has many errors in grammar, punctuation, and spelling – it was obviously not edited and is very difficult to read** | **The paper is incomplete** |

**Total Points Earned = \_\_\_\_\_ X 2 = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ / 32 pts**