

Creative Writing
Thanksgiving Assignment
Everson

Today was just a warm-up. Over the break, I want you to spend lots of time listening. Listening and jotting. You need to listen to yourself, how you talk, what you say. Pick a day, carry around a notebook, and try to write down as much as you can of what comes out of your mouth. It's okay if you think you sound like a moron — we all do.

Additionally, I want you to record what other people say. Most families get together over Thanksgiving, and no one is weirder than your own family. This should make for some *very* interesting dialogue. Also, lots of people go shopping over Thanksgiving. What is being said as folks line up at 4 a.m. on Black Friday to get into Wal-Mart? As dedicated shoppers stop for a slice of pizza and some sweet and sour pork in the food court at Flatiron Crossing? As crazy people buy 10 iPods at a time? Only you can find out.

Taking the time to study how people speak will help you write better dialogue. It may very well also give you some great ideas that you can turn into fictional stories. Someone who completes this assignment in a satisfactory manner will probably have 3-4 pages of transcribed, overheard speech. Someone who half-asses it will probably have 1-2 pages. I greatly dislike half-assery.