

## Drafting Your Monologue

**Directions:** Complete these steps to turn your oral history into a draft of your monologue. Only highlight the words that the person you interviewed (your interviewee) speaks. Your monologue will include only their words, just like the monologues of Anna Deavere Smith’s that you read in class.

**\*Note:** Your monologue should be 3-4 minutes long (300-400 words). That means that if you transcribed 15 minutes, you should not turn that whole interview into a monologue. **Pick a 3-4 minute part of the interview OR pick many different parts of the interview to string together.** Your monologue should be about the length of “Walk on a Leaf.”

**Step 1:** Highlight diction, characterization, imagery, and perspective in your monologue.

Literary device	Example from your transcribed interview
<p><b>Diction:</b> word choice.</p>	<p>Find at least 3 words or phrases that seem characteristic of your interviewee. Write them here and highlight key <b>diction</b> in your transcription. The words we use say a lot about who we are. Readers/listeners of your monologue will get a sense of your interviewee’s personality through their diction.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Characterization:</b> how the author reveals the character’s personality.</p>	<p>What speech, thoughts/beliefs, actions, effects on others, or looks do you want to emphasize in your subject/interviewee.</p> <p>Write them here and highlight key moments of <b>characterization</b> in your transcription. Readers/listeners like getting to know people and having a clear sense of who they are and a sense that they would recognize them if they ran into them on the street.</p> <p>Speech (for example, stuttering, pauses):</p>

	<p>Thoughts/Beliefs (for example, belief in gender equality):</p> <p>Effects on Others (for example, evidence in the monologue that your interviewee helps their neighbors):</p> <p>Actions (for example, evidence in the monologue that the speaker likes to attend protests or get people to open up):</p> <p>Looks (for example, body language, gestures, expressions):</p>
<p><b>Imagery:</b> language that appeals to the readers'/listeners' senses (smell, touch, taste, sight, hearing, movement, or emotions)</p> <p>Example: "When I saw the cops' flashing lights, a pit opened up in my stomach" (visual and organic imagery)</p>	<p>What imagery does your interviewee use, if any?</p> <p>Take notes here and highlight <b>imagery</b> in your transcription. Imagery tends to interest readers/listeners because it engages their senses. It will help your monologue stand out.</p> <p>Visual (sight):</p> <p>Tactile (touch):</p> <p>Auditory (hearing):</p> <p>Gustatory (taste):</p>

	<p>Olfactory (smell):</p> <p>Kinesthetic (movement):</p> <p>Organic (emotional):</p>
<p><b>Perspective:</b> one's outlook or lens, usually based on their experiences, values/beliefs, and aspects of identity.</p>	<p>Take notes here and highlight examples of <b>perspective</b> in your transcription.</p> <p>Experiences:</p> <p>Values/beliefs:</p> <p>Aspects of identity (for example: race, class, gender, sexual orientation):</p>

**Step 2:** Now that you've identified literary aspects of your monologue, consider the moral, message, lesson, or story your interviewee is communicating. Think of what the heart of this monologue really is. Highlight all those parts too. Keep in mind that for some interviewees, this could be almost everything they say while for others you might need to leave more out.

**Highlight enough that your monologue flows, sounds good, and makes sense. It should pull readers in and be something they want to read.**

**Step 3:** In the same document as your transcription, or in a different one, copy and paste the parts of your interview you want to keep in your monologue. When in doubt, leave it in. You can edit it down even more later.

**Pro Tips:**

-If you want to show a pause in their speech, use an ellipsis, **example:** I wish...I wish I'd stood up for myself.

-If someone cuts themselves off, use an em dash, two dashes together, **example:** I thought that--that--

-If you want to show emphasis in someone's speech, use italics, **example:** It was like *whoa*, really?

-For stage directions, use parentheses or square brackets, **example:** [sighs] or (sighs)