

Harrington
21M.604 Fall 2005
Week 5, Assignment

1. Using 2-4 characters create a 10 minute play (10 pages) that centers on a disrupted ritual.
2. Read "A Streetcar Named Desire," by Tennessee Williams. What's the disrupted ritual in this play? How many can you name?

What is ritual?

Religious: funeral, wedding, daily mass, confession.

Social: 10 year old running poker game
3 friends meet at a bar one time a week
Running partners

Family: Christmas evening
Thanksgiving morning
Birthday party
Graduation

Personal:
How you dress/eat.
Turning TV on every time character is alone.
How you start your day.

Work:
What are the rituals in a lab with monkeys/rats/flies?
What would a disruption cause?
Doling out meds in a hospital.
Opening the mail
Opening/closing the office/store
Car pool
Watching the Superbowl
Riding the subway
Riding the commuter train
Boarding the Monday morning Delta shuttle.

As you prepare to write your play, ask yourself the following questions:

1. What is the ritual? Family? Social? Personal? Work-related?
2. What is the scenario of the ritual? What usually happens? Think it through step by step. How/when does it begin? End?
3. How does each character respond to the ritual?

4. What disrupts the ritual?
5. When and how is the ritual disrupted? What are the SPECIFIC circumstances?
6. How does the disruption affect the ritual? Characters? Relationships?
Immediately? As the scene progresses?
7. What CONFLICT does the disruption create?
8. Are any or all of the conflicts resolved?