

# Assignment 1

## Discourse Sample: Choosing Cantaloupe

- D: (1) Um, now, see now, my mom, we, uh, my mom showed me how to pick out cantaloupe, 'cause we always, 'cause we in the summer always have, she always has cantaloupe.

*[brief digression about taste of good cantaloupes]*

- (2) So anyway, so she, my mom always says, um...always like has this like smell test, and I always try to figure out the smell test of the cantaloupe, you know?
- (3) The problem—one problem is that it's in the supermarket, 'cause you know, we don't really, we have fruit stands, but I'm, I'm in the middle of the city, so it's kind of hard to get to it.
- (4) So um, so you've got a supermarket smell, which is so sterile, you know, like a big supermarket.
- (5) It's such a cold, sterile smell.
- (6) It's like, how do you smell anything?
- (7) But anyway, so we always like, you know, <SNIFFS> and stuff, and if it's kind of um, and, and, you know, 'cause they've always got the big lines and stuff.
- (8) And anyway, and I usually just guess, but...but uh, frankly I never—

*[end of (8) slightly overlaps with beginning of (9)]*

- M: (9) Well, if, if it's too strong of a smell, it's not good.

- D: (10) No, right, well, then you can tell that it's bad!
- (11) See that's the problem, is that, is that my nose isn't quite sensitive enough to be able—
- (12) Like, all I know is that, is that when I smell the smell, that means it must be too strong so I don't take it. <LAUGHS>
- (13) But then if I *can't* smell the smell, I don't know if it's because there is no smell or it's just because it's just not strong enough for *me*, so the point is, I'm all screwed up.
- (14) So actually, I never usually have enough guts.
- (15) Like I always go shopping, and I always look for cantaloupes, and I never have enough guts.
- (16) Once in awhile I've, I've, I have gotten a cantaloupe, 'cause Mom's told me to, but...I don't really, I don't trust my judgment.
- (17) And then, and my, so Mom always buys them.

something that isn't really looked upon. . . the patient wouldn't be too happy with it. So you're making a decision for the patient, by saying you're not really in pain.

[ In this case where it would appear at least, the purpose of this is for diagnosis, there is no abuse of the patient, other than this short term deceit, that for you did not provoke a moral issue. ]

I don't think so, no. No.

### VIGNETTE II

#### Conflict?

Well, yes. I would say, yes. Because it comes to, you know that something might happen to the patient that might be upsetting to the patient. Whereas you think the patient should know about it. It would be a real hard thing to decide where you side. Do you side with the surgeon and hope you know what he's talking? Or do you side with the patient, you know go to the patient and explain what type of doctor he is, or that he does the mastectomy. A lot of times I like, I wish I could tell people of this opinion that I think this case isn't being handled correctly. It's so hard to do that. You're really putting yourself on the spot. Because you know maybe a lot of times the patient has complete trust in his physician, and to tell them something like that is frightening and can cause a ruckus. It's not going to be taken lightly. So, I don't know what I would do. What are you asking?

Is there a conflict? If so what is it?

The conflict is knowing that someone would be going through a surgery not knowing the facts about the physician or about the disease. Knowing that they don't know that the physician might do a

- 1) A: My biggest complaint--maybe you've noticed this--in California and in New York the movies advertise which ones have like dolby sound
- 2) B: mm-hmm
- 3) A: and THX sound
- 4) B: mm-hmm
- 5) A: and here none of the theatres advertise that which leads me to believe that none of them have it
- 6) B: uhm, sometimes at the Cheri you can see 70mm dolby
- 7) A: But basically the sound in Boston theatres suck
- 8) B: No, there there's 2 theatres, the the Cheri and the Charles
- 9) A: Two theatres
- 10) B: Hey
- 11) A: TWO theatres?! <emphasis on the TWO>
- 12) B: <laugh>
- 13) A: I mean in San Fransisco since it's near Lucas film
- 14) B: right
- 15) A: everybody has THX
- 16) B: right
- 17) A: you know and they play that little uh blurb at the
- 18) B: DA DA DAH <imitates the blurb music, loudly, beats on table>
- 19) A: "The AUDIENCE is listening chkkichu" <imitating this THX theme>
- 20) B: right
- 21) A: I miss that
- 22) B: right
- 23) A: it's like movies aren't the same if they don't start with that
- 24) B: There was a uh talk here a couple of years ago by somebody from, maybe Bose, was talking about sound for films, and went through this big <sigh> explanation of how they were getting ready to install digital sound for in in the Cheri and then for some political reasons that remain a mystery they pulled it out
- 25) A: Really?
- 26) B: Yeah.
- 27) A: Because the Kabuke in San Fransisco which is one of the nicer
- 28) B: right, hmm
- 29) A: theatres has, I think they have some deal with Lucas or something
- 30) B: mm-hmm
- 31) A: they were very proud of the fact they have THX
- 32) B: so <tries to interrupt above and then stops>
- 33) B: mm-hmm
- 34) A: I lived right near there so I
- 35) B: yeah
- 36) A: so I frequently saw
- 37) B: <breaks in> where'd you live?
- 38) A: near the presidio
- 39) B: Yeah, where?
- 40) A: Specifically on Clay Street between Walnut and Laurel
- 41) B: yeah
- 42) A: Do you know the Presidio entrance to the Presidio?
- 43) B: <sigh> yeah
- 44) A: Presidio street
- 45) B: right
- 46) A: and then other one is Arguello and there's that BIG Temple
- 47) B: yeah I saw it
- 48) A: Temple Emanuel, big red dome
- 49) B: hmm
- 50) A: anyway I lived there
- 51) B: hmm
- 52) B: I used to uh go to the Ka Kabuke a lot
- 53) A: From the Penninsula?
- 54) B: Weelll, if I was up there for something else, ya know for some reason on a Saturday or Sunday I would then go to the movies mostly because it was a nice theatre and there was a close to work

S interviewing K, who is participating in a conference for Muslim youth:

- (1)S: Well how (pause) did you learn about Islam?
- (2)K: Uh, well, my dad would get people, like when I was grouping up...
- (3)S: Uh huh.
- (4)K: ...to teach me Arabic, you know, tutors to come to our house.
- (5)S: Uh huh.
- (6)K: Aaaaand I learned the alphabet and basically how to read it -- the Quran but I really wasn't good at it...
- (7)S: Uh huh.
- (8)K: ...because being a normal little kid my attention span was really short and I got bored very quickly.
- (9)S: How old were you then?
- (10)K: Pff. I don't even know how old I was. It was just (pause) It (pause) as my memory came in (pause)
- (11)S: Uh huh.
- (12)K: You know (pause) I could (pause) Looking at it right now it seems like it could have gone back into (pause) like (pause) infinity of the past.
- (13)S: Uh huh.
- (14)K: Kind of (pause) dumb phrase. (pause) Anyway. (long pause) Then I would go in and out of Islamic Foundation Sunday school (pause) uh meaning that (pause) I went there (pause) aand I didn't go there...
- (15)S: Uh huh.
- (16)K: ...I guess by the time that I was maybe fourteen. I don't even know what age, at what age I stopped attending the Sunday school. So, and...
- (17)S: OK.
- (18)K: ...then I think I had another tutor. I probably went through through two or three or four tutors. (laughs)
- (19)S: (laughs) Why? What happened? Tell me the story there? Did...  
(simultaneously)
- (20)K: Well to learn how to read Arabic--
- (21)S: you not like them?
- (22)S: Or they not like you?
- (23)K: Well they had their different funny ways...
- (24)S: Uh huh.
- (25)K: ...I guess and until uh the one tutor that we had. Well we had one tutor that who was an uh Malaysian guy. He was pretty cool.
- (26)S: Uh huh.
- (27)K: But then I guess he had to either go back to Malaysia or get married or something. Or (pause) or go to school or something like that. And you see these tutors came maybe every two or three years you know, then we'd go through another tutor or something.
- (28)S: Uh huh.
- (29)K: Uh. But the last one was pretty good. I I had learned good pronunciation from the guy -- the Malaysian guy -- and I just had to learn how to read faster and with the last tutor I had uh the go-- the goal was to finish the Quran, which I did, Al-Hamdu lillah ("thanks be to God"). Afterwards, after (pause) Like the (pause) Of course uh I finished the Quran at when I was sixteen when most people do it when they're seven--six and seven....(more dialogue about learning the Quran)



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The following is a telephone conversation between a caller (C) and a Small Claims Advisory Service volunteer at Phillips Brooks House (V).

- [C.1] So essentially what has happened is um I placed a layaway with uh Tweeter uh in Harvard Square, the uh electronics store and um,
- [C.2] it was back in July of last year for a \$100 and in December I went to cancel the layaway and I was told that the layaway had already been cancelled in their computer system and that the money was refunded.
- [C.3] Um I was told to get in touch with their corporate offices if I needed to see the receipt for the refund and so forth.
- [C.4] And um, I did find the corporate office, and they said to me um , the fax, uh the receipt that they had which did not have my signature nor any ID of mine I never received the money um
- [C.5] and uh was told that, well, since they say on their system that they gave me the money back, there was nothing that they could do about it.
- [C.6] Um, on my layaway receipt I clearly had to sign it and um there's no uh signature on the refund money I'm assuming that their computer either there company is having a problem or um someone in the store has buried the funds um somewhere,
- [C.7] but I never received my initial uh layway back.
- [V.8] Ok, so, so, you'd like to sue for the \$400?
- [C.9] Well, yeah, I'd like to sue for just the initial layaway,
- [C.10] but, um, maybe even interest that I lost on it since I first asked for it to be returned.
- [C.11] And uh, I, I've been treated pretty poorly, so I'm fairly upset with this company.
- [C.12] And I would like to, you know, be able to sue for whatever I can.
- [V.13] Ok, I, I'll tell you what you can do.
- [C.14] Um-hm.
- [V.15] Um, first, uh, there's some information, some basic information I'd like to send you.
- [C.16] Ok.
- [V.17] Um, there's a uh, um, you can I'd like you to send them a demand letter. uh basically putting down in writing, listing your greivances,
- [V.18] you know, say, I put down \$400 for the layaway and I tried to cancel it, you would not give me my money back
- [C.19] ok.
- [V.20] for whatever reason.
- [C.21] um-hm.
- [V.22] And then you say if um, if you do not if you do not return my money within 30 days, I will sue you uh, under chapter 93A.
- [C.23] Chapter
- [V.24] 93
- [C.25] uh-huh.
- [V.26] A.
- [C.27] OK.
- [V.28] Massachusetts general laws, uh which entitles, which entitles, uh which entitles you to sue for triple damages.
- [C.29] ok.
- [V.30] That would mean you could sue for \$1200
- [C.31] ok
- [V.32] and make sure you put that in the letter because that will that tends to get their attention.
- [C.33] Ok.
- [V.34] And uh, and, basically that.
- [V.35] I'll send I'll send you a something on how to draft that letter.
- [C.36] Ok, so it's called the Chapter 93A of Massachussetts Criminal Law?
- [V.37] General Law.
- [C.38] Oh, Law. I'm sorry. OK.
- [V.39] And uh, so I'll just send that.
- [V.40] And if they don't within 30 days, they don't give you a satisfactory reply
- [C.41] um-hm,
- [V.42] then you go down to the court clerk's office, uh, I'd guess you'd go down to the Cambridge district court.
- [C.43] Ok.