Here’s a checklist for your comedy/drama assignment:

1. Propose a new sitcom or drama for network or cable TV, or chose an existing series.
2. After the title, write a one-liner for the show. This is the basic idea of the show in one well-crafted sentence. For example, the one-liner for Seinfeld might be “Jerry Seinfeld stars as a fictionalized version of himself as a Manhattan comic.”
3. Write a brief summary—one or two well-crafted sentences--of the continuing concept of the show, showing the formula of what happens episode to episode. For example, Wikipedia provides the following description of Seinfeld: “Set predominantly in an apartment building in [Manhattan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manhattan)'s [Upper West Side](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upper_West_Side) in New York City, the show features a handful of Jerry's friends and acquaintances, including best friend [George Costanza](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Costanza) ([Jason Alexander](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jason_Alexander)), former girlfriend [Elaine Benes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elaine_Benes) ([Julia Louis-Dreyfus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julia_Louis-Dreyfus)), and neighbor across the hall [Cosmo Kramer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cosmo_Kramer) ([Michael Richards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Richards)). It is often described as being ‘a show about nothing,’ as many of its episodes are about the minutiae of daily life.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seinfeld#cite_note-bbc-1)” Write your own description in your own words, of course. Cite sources if you quote anything.
4. List the main characters and give their most important character traits and back story. Tell us the personality traits that make them funny or dramatic, especially in terms of their interactions with other characters. Each character description should be concise. For example, Wikipedia supplies the following character description of Jerry Seinfeld: “Jerry is a "minor [celeb](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Celebrity)" [stand-up comedian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stand-up_comedy) who is often depicted as "[the voice of reason](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Everyman)" amidst the general insanity generated by the people in his world. Jerry is a mild [germaphobe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mysophobia) and [neat freak](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obsessive%E2%80%93compulsive_disorder), as well as an avid [Superman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superman), [New York Mets](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_Mets) and [breakfast cereal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Breakfast_cereal) fan. Jerry's apartment is the center of a world visited by his eccentric friends.[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seinfeld#cite_note-10) Do not repeat yourself. If you told us Jerry is a germaphobe in your program summary, do not tell us again in your character summary.
5. Devise a title for your own original episode—i.e., one that you create. It could be a working title. If it’s not right, we’ll work on it.

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1. Create a one-liner for your original episode. The one-liner for “The Contest” would be, “Jerry, George, Elaine and Kramer have a contest to see who can last the longest without pleasuring themselves.” (Notice I carefully chose “pleasuring themselves” instead of “masturbating” because “pleasuring themselves” is funnier.)
2. Write out a separate one-liner for both your A Plot and B Plot—one well-crafted sentence for each. Your A Plot deals with your main character or set of characters. Your B plot deals with a different set of characters.
3. Write a brief summary for your original episode (including beginning, middle and end). Your summary should be organized into acts—two acts for a sitcom, four acts for a drama. Describe the major plot points, scene by scene, as briefly as possible. It is important that your scene descriptions be concise and well thought out. Make sure you use all the continuing characters. (Your actors are all well paid whether you use them or not.) Do not introduce guest characters unless that is part of the continuing formula of your show.
4. Script one scene. Set up the format correctly as per directions and samples. Character names are centered in all caps, but dialog is not; dialog has a left margin and occupies the middle 3.5” of the page. Comedy is double-spaced; drama is single-spaced.
5. Scene descriptions tell us concisely what and who we see in a single location, on a single set.
6. Do not tell your actors how to say their lines—let the lines themselves make that clear. Craft your dialog carefully so that it is concise and sounds like real conversation, but with the boring parts deleted. Use distinctive character speech patterns.
7. Make sure your sample scene has a beginning, middle and end. End strong; in comedy, that means with a laugh line.
8. Attach your assignment in MS Word format in an email to [grodman@brooklyn.cuny.edu](mailto:grodman@brooklyn.cuny.edu) with the file name firstname lastname comedy (or drama) 1 (or 2) .
9. If MS Word messes up your format, you may also include a pdf version as well as the Word version.

1. Post your work on Blackboard under the appropriate discussion forum. Respond on that same forum with at least 3 reactions to your classmates’ assignments.