

Activity 2.9: Examining Eliza's Options

Act III ends with Eliza, Higgins, and Pickering leaving the ball. Imagine the conversation that might take place when they get home. You will take one of the three characters and explore answers to the following questions.

Objectives:

- to generate an original dialogue based on a close reading of the text
- to situate a text by examining a character's choices within the historical context
- to write a position piece suggesting the appropriate choice for a character to make

The character: _____

How does the character typically behave and speak?	How does the character feel now that the ball is over?

Now that you have discussed and taken notes on one of the characters, you will create a dialogue with all three characters. Remember that the subtext is often even more important than the words that are actually spoken, so include any subtext that seems appropriate by noting it in parentheses at the end of the corresponding line.

1. After you have read Act IV, compare how the conversation Shaw created is similar to and different from the one you created.

2. In Act IV, Eliza asks, "Where am I to go? What am I to do? What's to become of me?" What are Eliza's options, given the setting of the play? Brainstorm Eliza's options, and the pros and cons of each.