Speech Act Analysis Linguistics Ms. Plackowski

Find a *very* short clip from a movie or TV show, a political speech, a press conference, a bit of stand-up comedy, or any other recording. The clip should be 30-60 seconds long at the most. Be ready to play this scene for the class.

- 1) Transcribe the scene.
- 2) Break up each speech act and analyze it. Depending on the speech act, you might address
- Whether the speech act is direct or indirect
- Whether the speech act includes presupposition or implicature, and what kind.
- Whether the speech act is constantive, performative, or phatic
- Whether the speech act is representative, commissive, directive, declarative, or expressive
- The locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary levels of the speech act
- How the context of the speech act and the identities of the speakers / hearers influences the speech act
- Whether there are anomalies, metaphors, or idioms at play
- Whether there are lexical or semantic ambiguities
- Whether the speakers follow Grice's maxims of conversation and where they break them (if they do); where you see a maxim clash
- The truth conditions of the act
- Whether the speakers follow Grice's cooperative principle
- Whether and where positive politeness or negative politeness are at work
- The speaker's register

You will write up your transcription of the scene and your analysis. You will then present the scene and your analysis to the class.

Criteria	Points
Clip / excerpt is well-chosen and transcribed thoroughly and correctly.	/5
Each speech act is analyzed in detail. Includes all relevant dimensions of the analysis (listed above), and discusses how the context in general influences the speech act(s).	/ 10
Paper is clearly organized and shows strong control of language.	/5
Presentation includes all relevant dimensions of analysis.	/5
Presenter is prepared, organized, confident, and clear.	/5
Total	/ 30