**EAVESDROPPING**

We believe it is the job of a writer to *collect* and *connect* disparate events, emotions, images and sounds. In order to write great stories and poems, we must first become great observers.

So for this assignment, we want you to eavesdrop on the world: move around and take notes on what you see and experience, connecting moments that feel useful, interesting, important. In particular, we want you to eavesdrop on a **conversation** or two, and write down the things you hear people **say** (and, perhaps, *how* they say them: with great force? Quietly, and with some hesitation?). Listening to people speaking around you can often open the door into a story—both the content and the delivery of real conversations can lead you to ideas and a way of making your own argument about what it means to be human.

If you can’t find a conversation to listen to, record other kinds of sensory input

Remember to be **at play** during this assignment: there are no grades. The goal is to discover moments and conversations that inspire you and move you to write. Take notes on anything and everything that feels important or interesting. Nothing is too insignificant to justify writing it down.