**Analyzing Connotation and Narrator Realibility**

**Why do certain people choose certain words?**

Look up “connotation” and write the definition below:

Why is it important to understand a word’s connotation?

Answer the following questions (may want to have podcast up so you can go to the time indicated):

1. What does it mean when someone is “loosey-goosey” with details (8:09)? How is

the denotation and connotation different from “lying” or “committing perjury”?

1. How is a “teeny weeny bag of marijuana” (6:58) different than “a small amount of

drugs”?

1. What does the narrator mean when she says Adnan and his friends were “healthy

American teenagers who were going to do what teenagers do, so long as they didn't

get caught” (10:00)?

1. The state portrays Adnan as “duplicitous.” Sarah and Saad phrase it differently: “We

all grew up with that dual personality” that comes with being a “normal kid with

immigrant parents” (10:00). What’s the difference in denotation? What’s the

difference in connotation? Does this difference show up in your own life?

1. The narrator notes that Adnan was asleep when the cops arrested him and took him

to the interrogation room (12:32). Why does this detail matter in an artistic sense?

(What would be lost if she just started the scene in the interrogation room?)

1. The narrator describes Adnan as having “big brown eyes, like a dairy cow” (19:45).

What is the connotative meaning of this?

1. Look at your answers to the previous questions in this section. What is the

cumulative impact of the narrator’s diction? In other words, can you detect a bias in

her description, or a way that she wants the listener to react?