Professor Carmen Saen-de-Casas developed this dialogue assignment for her course, "Latin American Literature in Translation"(SPA/LAC 233).

Dialogue Assignment

Read again Heading South, Looking North: a Bilingual Journey, by Ariel Dorfman, and "Cloud Cover Caribbean," by Ana Lydia Vega. As we have discussed in class, both readings deal with the experience of emigration and exile of several Latin American individuals who, at one point in their lives, had to leave their native countries to come to the United States for very different reasons. Naturally, their experience in their new territory will vary depending on multiple factors, such as race, age, social extraction, professional skills, goals, expectations…But, at the same time, they will have to face some fears, anxieties and problems that are common to any process of adaptation to a new country with a different language and culture.

I would like you to imagine that, after living twenty years in the United States, Oprah invites Ariel Dorfman, Antenor, Diogenes, Carmelo and the Puerto Rican sailor to one of her daily shows. She wants to engage all of them in a conversation she will moderate to discuss and compare their experience as Latino emigrants in the United States. Write an imaginary dialogue in which the participants reflect on issues such as the circumstances that forced them to emigrate, the anxieties and difficulties they had to endure in their adaptation process, the contrast between the life they had envisioned and the reality they actually encountered, the extent to which they had to reinvent or rethink their former identities…You may decide to base the whole dialogue on a detailed discussion of one of these issues or you may want to go over some of them in a more superficial manner. Do not make any assertion that you can not sustain with the content of the readings.

Your dialogue should be four pages long, double-spaced, 12 pt font. Check carefully for grammar and spelling errors, since the evaluation of the assignment will be based both on content and formal correctness. Please, hand in three copies.

DUE DATES: - Draft: February 27
- Revision: March 6