

## EXERCISE FROST/NIXON

Compare the two excerpts below. What differences are there?

Can you account for the differences? Which appears more confrontational, or more emotionally charged, or more driven by rationale, which is more dispassionate?

Can you say why you feel this is the case?

10 FRO: so what in a sense you are saying is that	10 FRO: alright wait just so I understand correctly
11       there are certain situations	11       are you really saying that in certain situations
12 Ps: (1.3)	12       the president can decide
13 FRO: the Houston plan or that part of it was one of them	13       whether it's in the best interest of the nation
14       where the president (0.5) can decide	14       and then
15       that it's in the best interest of the nation	15 Ps: (0.3)
16       or something and do something illegal	16 FRO: do something ille[gal]
17 Ps: (2.3)	17 NIX:                [I am] saying
18 NIX: well when the president does it	18       that when the president does it
19       that means that it is not illegal	19 Ps: (0.3)
20 Ps: (1.0)	20 NIX: that means it's not (.) illegal
21 FRO: by definition	21 Ps: (2.6)
22 NIX: exactly	22 FRO: I'm sorry↗
	23 Ps: (1.1)
	24 NIX: that's what I believe

Look at the lines 17-onwards. Can you, for each excerpt, give a breakdown of what each turn is doing in the NIX-FRO-NIX series of actions?

NIX	NIX
FRO	FRO
NIX	NIX

Herman (1991) writes: “Aspects of the turn-taking system, like the mechanics of speech transition, are thus a useful resource for the dramatist, since the different options available can, when used, color our assessment of character behavior and the nature of the unfolding situation itself as it is being enacted.” Discuss with reference to these sequences.