Writing assignment using modals

1. Read the situations on the next page. Choose one. Write a conversation between four people (A,B,C,D) discussing what to do. Each person (A, B,C, D) should say something at least 4 times.

2. In your conversation, include at least one of the following types of modals and as many more as possible. For example, you must include a modal of possibility, one of necessity etc. Then you should use the other modals in each type as needed.

3. You should use some **affirmative**, some **negative** and some **question** forms.

4. After you finish writing, please underline each modal and the main verb. Check them carefully for correct form. Then write the type of modal used (for example: possibility, necessity etc.) in ( ) at the end of each sentence.

**Possibilities:** may, might, could, maybe (adverb)

**Necessity:** must, have to, have got to

**Lack of necessity:** do not have to

**Prohibition:** must not

**Advice:** should, ought to, had better

**Permission and Prohibition:** may, can,

**Make suggestions:** let’s, why don’t we/you

**Logical conclusions:** must, must not

**Ability:** can

**Polite questions:** Would you, could you, can you

**Preferences:** prefer, better than, would rather

**Example:**

**Situation:**

Carol is just recovering from the flu. She’s at work today. She works for a big company. It’s her first day back to work since she got ill. She tires easily and feels a little dizzy.

**Discussion about What to do with four students!**

- **Student A:** Carol **ought to talk** to her supervisor about leaving work early today.
- **Student B:** But her boss **might tell** her that she **must stay** at work!
- **Student C:** She **could explain** to her boss that she doesn’t feel well and see what her boss says.
- **Student D:** I think she **would rather stay** at work until quitting time. If she was well enough to come to work, she’s well enough to work a full day.
- **Student A:** But she **doesn’t have to stay** at work if she is sick does she?
- **Student B:** No! I think Carol **had better go** directly home from work, no matter what her boss says. She’s **got to take care** of her health.
- **Student C:** I agree. She **doesn’t have to stay** at work if she doesn’t feel well, and she **shouldn’t**.
- **Student D:** Yes, she **might make** the other people at work sick.
- **Student A:** Yes I **prefer** going home if I’m sick, so I don’t make the other workers sick.
- **Student B:** I agree. She **shouldn’t stay** at work.
- **Student C:** **Maybe** she is feeling better.
- **Student D:** Well in my opinion, she **must** still **be** sick if she feels tired and dizzy, and she **must not make** the other workers sick too, so she **had better stay** home.
- **Student A:** Why **don’t we suggest** that she goes home?
• **Student B:** Good suggestion. Do you think you could protect yourself if someone is sick?
• **Student C:** You’re right. How can the other workers protect themselves, if she is still sick?
• **Student D:** Then she must go home if people can’t protect themselves.
• **Student A:** Okay! Let’s suggest that she goes home.

**Situations**
(Choose only one. Write on a separate piece of paper. Put the number of the situation and who or what it is about at the top of the page. Write the discussion. Use your best grammar. Check all your modals for correct form. Make it logical. Don’t forget to write in the margin what type of modal it is.)

1. Steve is a biology major. Chemistry is a required course for biology majors. Steve doesn’t want to take chemistry. He wants to take a course in art history or creative writing. His parents want him to become a doctor. He’s not interested in medicine or science. He hasn’t told his parents because he doesn’t want to disappoint them.

2. Matt and Amy are eighteen years old. They are full-time students. Their parents are supporting their education. Matt and Amy met five weeks ago. They fell in love. Matt wants to get married next month. Amy wants to wait four years until they finish their education. Matt says he can’t wait that long. Amy loves him desperately. She thinks maybe she should change her mind and marry Matt next month because love conquers all.

3. Georgia has just left the supermarket. She paid for her groceries in cash. When she got her change, the clerk made a mistake and gave her too much money. Georgia put the extra money in her purse. With her ten-year-old son beside her, she walked out of the store. Georgia needs the money and tells herself that the store won’t miss it. Nobody needs to know.

4. This is a story about a rabbit named Rabbit and a frog named Frog. Rabbit and Frog are good friends, but Rabbit’s family doesn’t like Frog, and Frog’s family doesn’t like Rabbit.

   Rabbit’s family says, “You shouldn’t be friends with Frog. He’s too different from us. He’s green and has big eyes. He looks strange. You should stay with your own kind.”

   And Frog’s family says, “How can you be friends with Rabbit? He’s big and clumsy. He’s covered with hair and has funny ears. Don’t bring Rabbit to our house. What will the neighbors think?”