The idea “six degrees of separation” has seeped into the popular culture. Consider the following quote by Ouisa in the play *Six Degrees of Separation* by John Guare:

“I read somewhere that everybody on the planet is separated by only six other people. Six degrees of separation. Between us and everybody else on this planet. The president of the United States. A gondolier in Venice . . . It’s not just the big names. It’s anyone. A native in the rain forest. A Tierra del Fuegan. An Eskimo. I am bound to everyone on this planet by a trail of six people. It’s a profound thought . . . ”

Please assess this claim in a short essay of no more than two double-spaced pages. When assessing the claim be sure to: a) describe the empirical results that suggest that it might be true; b) the limitations of this evidence with respect to the claim made by Ouisa; and c) the theoretical models which might explain why short paths exist. Any figures or graphs that you use in your essay will not count towards the two page limit.

2) Given what you know, rewrite Ouisia’s quote. Remember this is for a play so it needs to be pithy. Of course, it should be correct as well.