Acting Technique

Content Area: **Fine Arts**
Course(s): **Theatre Arts II, Theatre Arts I**
Time Period: **Marking Period 1**
Length: **1 week**
Status: **Published**

Course Pacing Guide

Unit	MP/Trimester	Weeks
Ensemble Building	1	2
Movement	1	3
Voice	1	2
Improvisation	1	3
Acting Technique	2	6
History of Theatre: Ancient Greece to the Renaissance	2	4

Unit Overview

In this unit, students will explore basic acting technique. Empahsis will be on analyzing a script to create meaningful characters. Students will explore objective, tactics, past life, and subtext.

Enduring Understandings

- Theatre artists rely on intention, curiosity, and critical inquiry.
- Theatre artists refine their work through rehearsal and an iterative evaluation cycle.
- Theatre artists make strong choices to effectively convey meaning.
- Theatre artists share stories and ideas to explore the human experience.
- Theatre artists work to explore different methods of communicating meaning.
- Theater artists reflect to understand the impact of drama processes and theatre experiences.
- Theatre artists apply criteria to investigate, explore, and assess drama and theatre work.
- Theatre artists allow awareness of interrelationships between self and others to influence and inform their work.
- Theatre artists critically inquire into the ways others have thought about and created drama processes

and productions to inform their own work.

Essential Questions

- What role does theatre play in society?
- How can we learn about the experiences of others through theatre?
- How can we effectively communicate meaning to an audience?
- How do we use our minds, voices, and bodies to share stories?
- What are the qualities of a "good" theatrical performance?
- Which is more valuable: process or product?

New Jersey Student Learning Standards (No CCS)

VPA.1.1.12.C.1	Analyze examples of theatre's influence on history and history's influence on theatre in Western and non-Western theatre traditions.
VPA.1.1.12.C.2	Formulate a process of script analysis to identify how the physical, emotional, and social dimensions of a character are communicated through the application of acting techniques.
VPA.1.1.12.C.CS1	Theatre and the arts play a significant role in human history and culture.
VPA.1.1.12.C.CS2	Characters have physical, emotional, and social dimensions that can be communicated through the application of acting techniques.
VPA.1.2.12.A.CS2	Access to the arts has a positive influence on the quality of an individual's lifelong learning, personal expression, and contributions to community and global citizenship.
VPA.1.3.12.C.1	Create plays that include well-structured plots and subplots, clear thematic intent, original characters, and technical theatrical elements appropriate to a variety of theatrical genres.
VPA.1.3.12.C.2	Create and evaluate performances by citing evidence of specific physical choices, sustained vocal technique, and clearly motivated actions.
VPA.1.3.12.C.CS1	Effective scripted and improvisational performances require informed, supported, and sustained choices by actors, directors, and designers. Theatre genres are created by combining complex narrative structures, technical theatrical elements, and thematic intent.
VPA.1.3.12.C.CS2	Presentation of believable, multidimensional characters in scripted and improvised performances requires application of specific physical choices, sustained vocal technique, and clearly motivated actions.

Amistad Integration

SEL.PK-12.1.1	Recognize one's feelings and thoughts
SEL.PK-12.1.2	Recognize the impact of one's feelings and thoughts on one's own behavior
SEL.PK-12.1.3	Recognize one's personal traits, strengths, and limitations
SEL.PK-12.1.4	Recognize the importance of self-confidence in handling daily tasks and challenges

SEL.PK-12.3.1	Recognize and identify the thoughts, feelings, and perspectives of others
SEL.PK-12.3.2	Demonstrate and awareness of the differences among individuals, groups, and others' cultural backgrounds
SEL.PK-12.3.3	Demonstrate an understanding of the need for mutual respect when viewpoints differ
SEL.PK-12.3.4	Demonstrate an awareness of the expectations for social interactions in a variety of settings
SEL.PK-12.4.1	Develop, implement and model effective problem-solving, and critical thinking skills
SEL.PK-12.4.2	Identify the consequences associated with one's actions in order to make constructive choices
SEL.PK-12.5.1	Establish and maintain healthy relationships
SEL.PK-12.5.2	Utilize positive communication and social skills to interact effectively with others
SEL.PK-12.5.4	Demonstrate the ability to prevent and resolve interpersonal conflicts in constructive ways

Holocaust/Genocide Education

Interdisciplinary Connections

LA.RL.9-10.1	Cite strong and thorough textual evidence and make relevant connections to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferentially, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.
LA.RL.9-10.2	Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details and provide an objective summary of the text.
LA.RL.9-10.3	Analyze how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme.

Technology Standards

TECH.8.1.12.A.2	Produce and edit a multi-page digital document for a commercial or professional audience and present it to peers and/or professionals in that related area for review.
TECH.8.1.12.A.CS1	Understand and use technology systems.
TECH.8.1.12.A.CS2	Select and use applications effectively and productively.
TECH.8.1.12.B.CS1	Apply existing knowledge to generate new ideas, products, or processes.
TECH.8.1.12.B.CS2	Create original works as a means of personal or group expression.
TECH.8.1.12.D.CS1	Advocate and practice safe, legal, and responsible use of information and technology.
TECH.8.1.12.D.CS2	Demonstrate personal responsibility for lifelong learning.
TECH.8.1.12.E.CS2	Locate, organize, analyze, evaluate, synthesize, and ethically use information from a variety of sources and media.
TECH.8.2.12.D.CS1	Apply the design process.

21st Century Themes/Careers

CRP.K-12.CRP2		Apply appropriate academic and technical skills.
CRP.K-12.CRP4		Communicate clearly and effectively and with reason.
CRP.K-12.CRP5		Consider the environmental, social and economic impacts of decisions.
CRP.K-12.CRP6		Demonstrate creativity and innovation.
CRP.K-12.CRP8		Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
CRP.K-12.CRP11		Use technology to enhance productivity.

Instructional Strategies & Learning Activities

Warm-up activities such as:

- Mind and body relaxation
- Stretching
- Any of the exercises introduced earlier in the course

Theatre exercises such as:

- Character improvisations
- Subtext colors
- Past life
- Relationships
- Intention
- Tactics
- Status

Detailed script analysis

Detailed character analysis

Demonstrations

Videos

Journals

Evaluations

Monologue Performance Project

Two-Person Scene Performance Project

Differentiated Instruction

Examples may include:

- Curriculum Map
- Inquiry/Problem-Based Learning
- Learning preferences integration (visual, auditory, kinesthetic)
- Sentence & Discussion Stems
- Tiered Learning Targets
- Learning through play
- Meaningful Student Voice & Choice
- Relationship-Building & Team-Building
- Self-Directed Learning
- Debate
- LMS use
- The Hot Seat/Role-Play
- Mastery Learning
- Game-Based Learning
- Grouping
- Socratic Seminar
- Rubrics
- Learning Menus
- Jigsaws
- Learning Through Workstations
- Concept Attainment
- Mentoring
- Assessment Design & Backwards Planning
- Student Interest

Formative Assessments

- Informal sharings
- In-process peer evaluation
- In-process teacher evaluation
- Theatre warm-ups and exercises
- Journal
- Quizzes
- Class discussion

Summative Assessment

- Monologue performance project: Students will prepare and present contrasting monlogues to the class.
- Two-person scene performance project: Students will prepare and present a two-person scene to the class.

Benchmark Assessments

Alternate Assessments

Resources & Technology

- Handouts
- Excerpts of scripts
- Excerpts of educational texts
- Videos
- Music
- Image search

BOE Approved Texts

Closure

Such as:

- Journal
- Gallery Walk - On chart paper, small groups of students write and draw what they learned. After the completed works are attached to the classroom walls, others students affix post-its to the posters to extend on the ideas, add questions.
- Sequence It - create timelines of major events discussed
- Low-Stakes Quizzes - Give a short quiz using technologies like Kahoot or a Google form.
- Have students write down three quiz questions (to ask at the beginning of the next class).
- Question Stems - Have students write questions about the lesson on cards, using question stems framed around Bloom's Taxonomy. Have students exchange cards and answer the question they have acquired.
- Kids answer the following prompts: "What takeaways from the lesson will be important to know three years from now? Why?
- Have students dramatize a real-life application of a skill.
- Ask a question. Give students ten seconds to confer with peers before you call on a random student to

answer. Repeat.
- Have students orally describe a concept, procedure, or skill in terms so simple that a child in first grade would get it.
- Direct students to raise their hands if they can answer your questions. Classmates agree (thumbs up) or disagree (thumbs down) with the response.
- Kids write notes to peers describing what they learned from them during class discussions.
- Ask students to summarize the main idea in under 60 seconds to another student.

ELL

Such as:

- Alternate Responses
- Advance Notes
- Extended Time
- Teacher Modeling
- Simplified Written and Verbal Instructions
- Frequent Breaks
- E-Dictionaires
- Google Translate

Special Education

List is not inclusive but may include examples such as:

- Shorten assignments to focus on mastery of key concepts.
- Substitute alternatives for written assignments (clay models, posters, panoramas, collections, etc.)
- Specify and list exactly what the student will need to learn to pass.
- Evaluate the classroom structure against the student's needs (flexible structure, firm limits, etc.).
- Keep workspaces clear of unrelated materials.
- Keep the classroom quiet during intense learning times.
- Reduce visual distractions in the classroom (mobiles, etc.).
- Provide a computer for written work.
- Seat the student close to the teacher or a positive role model.
- Provide an unobstructed view of the chalkboard, teacher, movie screen, etc.
- Keep extra supplies of classroom materials (pencils, books) on hand.
- Maintain adequate space between desks.
- Give directions in small steps and in as few words as possible.
- Number and sequence the steps in a task.
- Have student repeat the directions for a task.
- Provide visual aids.
- Go over directions orally.
- Provide a vocabulary list with definitions.

- Permit as much time as needed to finish tests, according to IEP.
- Allow tests to be taken in a room with few distractions (e.g., the library).
- Have test materials read to the student, and allow oral responses.
- Divide tests into small sections of similar questions or problems.
- Allow the student to complete an independent project as an alternative test.
- Give progress reports instead of grades.
- Show a model of the end product of directions.
- Stand near the student when giving directions or presenting a lesson.
- Permit a student to rework missed problems for a better grade.
- Average grades out when assignments are reworked, or grade on corrected work.
- Use a pass-fail or an alternative grading system when the student is assessed on his or her own growth.

504

Examples of accommodations in 504 plans include but are not limited to:

- preferential seating
- extended time on tests and assignments
- reduced homework or classwork
- verbal, visual, or technology aids
- modified textbooks or audio-video materials
- behavior management support
- adjusted class schedules or grading
- verbal testing
- excused lateness, absence, or missed classwork
- pre-approved nurse's office visits and accompaniment to visits
- occupational or physical therapy

At Risk

Examples may include:

- Use of mnemonics
- Have student restate information
- Provision of notes or outlines
- Concrete examples
- Assistance in maintaining uncluttered space
- Peer or scribe note-taking
- No penalty for spelling errors or sloppy handwriting
- Follow a routine/schedule
- Teach time management skills
- Verbal and visual cues regarding directions and staying on task
- Adjusted assignment timelines

- Visual daily schedule
- Immediate feedback
- Work-in-progress check
- Pace long-term projects
- Preview test procedures
- Pass/no pass option
- Cue/model expected behavior
- Use de-escalating strategies
- Use peer supports and mentoring
- Chart progress and maintain data

Gifted and Talented

- Focus on effort and practice
- Offer the Most Difficult First
- Offer choice
- Speak to Student Interests
- Allow G/T students to work together
- Encourage risk taking