Unit 4: Scene Study

Content Area: **Performing Arts**
Course(s): **Performing Arts**
Time Period: **Week 22**
Length: **10 classes**
Status: **Published**

Unit Overview

In this unit, students will breakdown all elements of a scene to best execute a performance of high quality for an audition or presentation. Students will learn concepts behind action verbs, intentions, and stimuli to deliver believable performances in class. Students will use Uta Hagen's theories and apply them to all scenework.

Standards

VPA.1.1.8.C.2	Determine the effectiveness of various methods of vocal, physical, relaxation, and acting techniques used in actor training.
VPA.1.1.8.C.3	Differentiate among vocal rate, pitch, and volume, and explain how they affect articulation, meaning, and character.
VPA.1.1.8.C.CS2	Actors exercise their voices and bodies through a wide variety of techniques to expand the range and the clarity of the characters they develop.
VPA.1.1.8.C.CS3	Emotion and meaning are often communicated through modulations of vocal rate, pitch, and volume.
VPA.1.1.8.C.CS4	A team of artists, technicians, and managers who collaborate to achieve a common goal uses a broad range of skills to create theatrical performances.
VPA.1.2.8.A.1	Map historical innovations in dance, music, theatre, and visual art that were caused by the creation of new technologies.
VPA.1.3.8.C.1	Create a method for defining and articulating character objectives, intentions, and subtext, and apply the method to the portrayal of characters in live performances or recorded venues.

Essential Questions

- How does performing in a drama differ from viewing it?
- When and why should an actor take risks in character and scene study?
- How does an actor validate choices?

Application of Knowledge: Students will know that...

- breaking accepted norms often gives rise to new forms of artistic expression
- Dramaturgy is the study of plays in a historical context

- proper background research on character will lead to honest choices in acting
- Uta Hagen's theory was based on 9 questions: Who?, What time?, Where?, What surrounds me?, Circumstances?, Relationship?, What do I want?, What is in my way?, What do I do to get it?

Application of Skills: Students will be able to...

- apply Uta Hagen's 9 questions to scene work
- choose a character and a scene the exact opposite of type and display action
- define Dramaturgy and utilize it to understand a scene better
- make bigger or larger than life characters from basic plots

Assessments

- using a student generated outline, analyze a character study for a classmate
- script analysis presentation with proper blocking notes,prop and costume list,and a character outline
- performance of a publish scripted scene using Uta Hagen's Theory
- Information from this unit will be included on a locally developed, end of course benchmark assessment that may take the form of a test, performance based project, or other summative assessment

Suggested Activities

- critique or analyze rehearsals in journal
- develop costume, blocking, and prop plots for scene
- create a character outline
- rehearse scripted scene utilizing Uta Hagen's theory of acting

Activities to Differentiate Instruction

Differentiation for special education:

- General modifications may include:
    - Modifications & accommodations as listed in the student's IEP
    - Assign a peer to help keep student on task
    - Modified or reduced assignments
    - Reduce length of assignment for different mode of delivery
    - Increase one-to-one time
    - Working contract between you and student at risk
    - Prioritize tasks
    - Think in concrete terms and provide hands-on-tasks
    - Position student near helping peer or have quick access to teacher

    - Anticipate where needs will be
    - Break tests down in smaller increments
- Content specific modifications may include:
    - use teacher generated critique sheet
    - shorten length of scripted scene

Differentiation for ELL's:

- General modifications may include:
    - Strategy groups
    - Teacher conferences
    - Graphic organizers
    - Modification plan
    - Collaboration with ELL Teacher
- Content specific vocabulary important for ELL students to understand include: critique, analyze, character, theory, circumstance, dramaturgy

Differentiation to extend learning for gifted students may include:

- perform a more complex scene with multiple parts
- oral presentation on Uta Hagen's 9 Questions

Integrated/Cross-Disciplinary Instruction

Resources

Basic Drama Projects, by Fran Tanner

Everything About Theatre, by Robert L. Lee

Respect for Acting, by Uta Hagen

A Challenge for the Actor, by Uta Hagen

teacher generated handouts/worksheets

21st Century Skills