

# Scene Study; Creating and Building a Character

Content Area: **Music**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **Marking Period 3**  
Length: **40**  
Status: **Published**

## Essential Questions/Enduring Understandings

---

- What is character and role, and how are they created?
- What improvisational work can assist with developing a character?
- How do you analyze a character within a structure of a given play and how does it inform the acting method and performance?
- How does an actor incorporate physicality, tactics, movement, blocking, stage pictures, character voice, emphasis, and memorization into a scene performance?
- What is the importance of emotional content and dramatic action?
- How can you draw upon prior knowledge and context clues to prepare for a scene performance?
- How does an actor incorporate physicality, tactics, movement, blocking, stage pictures, character voice, emphasis, and memorization into a scene performance?

## Objectives

---

- Students will be skilled at analyzing a character within the structure of the play.
- Students will be skilled at determining the intentions of a character and use it to get what the character wants.
- Students will know how the scene relates to the play.
- Students will know how to discover the facts of the character and use them to develop an onstage persona.
- Students will know the historical context of the play and character.
- Students will be skilled at organically blocking their own scene to make it flow.
- Students will know how to determine the emotional content and dramatic action of the scene within the context of the play.
- Students will be skilled at memorization techniques for learning lines and blocking.
- Students will be skilled at utilizing costumes, makeup, movement, voice, and props to form a fully realized character performance.

## Learning Plan

---

- Have students break into groups and choose a scene from a published play, read the play, and write character analysis reports to present and discuss in class.
- Have students work with various exercises to help them with physicalizing and vocalizing a character.
- Have students monitor progress in their Actor's Journal.
- Provide Character Analysis Packet, which gives actors a structure to discover character's circumstances, background, and objectives.

- Work on intention exercises to hone a student’s sense that everything they do on stage is for a purpose.
- Have students apply the techniques learned previously as ways to truthfully play their characters.
- Use a variety of improvisations to discover more about their characters, including the “moment before”, “what ifs”, and “in our terms”.
- Have students rehearse their scenes both on their own and for the whole class with group participation and discussion.
- Have students perform their work for an outside public audience.

## **Assessments**

---

- Students will brainstorm about the essential questions through regular written reflections in the Actor’s Journal.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the facts of the play and character background through completion of provided Character Analysis Packet.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of character portrayal through the demonstration of a character’s intention and what the character wants.
- Students will discover the purpose of performed scenes and how they fit in the story of the play by discussion and written reflection.
- Students will demonstrate understanding of blocking and how it helps define the character for the audience by blocking their own scenes in class exercises and rehearsals.
- Students will demonstrate a mastery of performance of character through public presentation of monologues, scenes, devised work, and full play production.

## **Materials**

---

- Character Analysis Packet
- Actor’s Journal
- Scripts

## **Suggested Strategies for Modifications**

---

[Acting 1 Accommodations](#)