

# Basic Acting Skills & Techniques

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

## Summary/Introduction

---

ELD standards: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wdmsiGOdCHlrjU-WPvAtENnEgi0EStZXo0uiFYv1Nu4/edit>

The focus of this unit is to develop an understanding of Acting through learning basic skills of physicality, objectivity, staging, and character relationships.

**Revised:** August 2024

	Theatre artists rely on intuition, curiosity and critical inquiry.
	What happens when theatre artists use their imaginations and/or learned theatre skills while engaging in creative exploration and inquiry?
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Cr1a	Research to construct ideas about the visual composition of devised or scripted theatre work.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Cr1b	Explore the impact of technology on design choices in devised or scripted theatre work.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Cr1c	Use script analysis to generate ideas about a character that is believable and authentic. Theatre artists work to discover different ways of communicating meaning. How, when, and why do theatre artists' choices change?
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Cr2a	Explore the function of history and culture in the development and subsequent interpretations of devised or scripted theatre work.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Cr2b	Examine the collaborative nature of the actor, director, playwright, and designers, and explore their interdependent roles. Theatre artists refine their work and practice their craft through rehearsal. How do theatre artists transform and edit their initial ideas?
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Cr3a	Use script analysis to inform choices impacting the believability and authenticity of a character.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Cr3b	Practice devised or scripted theatre work using theatrical staging conventions.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Cr3c	Explore technical design choices that support the story and emotional impact of a scripted or devised theatre work. Theatre artists develop personal processes and skills for a performance or design. How do theatre artists fully prepare a performance or design?
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Pr4a	Rehearse various acting exercises to expand skills in a rehearsal for devised or scripted theatre performance. Theatre artists make choices to convey meaning. How do theatre artists use tools and techniques to communicate ideas and feelings?

TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Pr5a	Identify and explore different pacing options per character to better communicate the story in a theatre work.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Pr5b	Explore and discover character choices using given circumstances in devised or scripted theatre work.  Theatre artists, through a shared creative experience with an audience, present stories, ideas, and envisioned worlds to explore the human experience.  What happens when theatre artists and audiences share creative experiences?
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Pr6a	Perform devised or scripted theatre work for a specific audience.  Theatre artists reflect to understand the impact of drama processes and theatre experiences.  How do theatre artists comprehend the essence of drama processes and theatre experiences?
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Re7a	Utilize personal reactions and reflections to artistic choices in a theatrical work for a formal theatre critique.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Re7b	Collaboratively analyze how artistic choices in a theatrical work affect personal and peer reactions.  Theatre artists' interpretations of drama/theatre work are influenced by personal experiences and aesthetics.  How can the same work of art communicate different messages to different people?
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Re8a	Examine a devised or scripted theatre work and identify the supporting evidence/criteria for its effectiveness to communicate the central message considering the play's history, culture, and political context.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Re8b	Evaluate the aesthetics of the production elements in a devised or scripted theatre work and their ability to support or extend the storyline.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Re8c	Formulate a deeper understanding and appreciation of a devised or scripted theatre work by considering its specific purpose or intended audience.  Theatre artists apply criteria to investigate, explore and assess drama and theatre work.  How are the theatre artist's processes and the audience's perspectives impacted by analysis and synthesis?
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Re9a	Analyze and compare artistic choices developed from personal experiences in multiple devised or scripted theatre works.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Re9b	Identify and compare cultural perspectives and contexts that may influence the evaluation of a devised or scripted theatre work.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Re9c	Justify personal aesthetics, preferences and beliefs through participation in and observation of devised or scripted theatre work.
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Cn10a	Investigate how cultural perspectives, community ideas, and personal beliefs impact a devised or scripted theatre work.  As theatre is created and experienced, personal experiences and knowledge are synthesized to interpret meaning and analyze the way in which the world may be understood.  What happens when theatre artists allow an understanding of themselves and the world to inform perceptions about theatre and the purpose of their work?
TH.9-12.1.4.12prof.Cn11a	Integrate knowledge of cultural, global and historic belief systems into creative choices in a devised or scripted theatre work.
WRK.9.2.12.CAP.5	Assess and modify a personal plan to support current interests and post-secondary plans.
WRK.9.2.12.CAP.6	Identify transferable skills in career choices and design alternative career plans based on those skills.

## Essential Questions/Enduring Understandings

---

- What is theater?
- What is acting?
- What is “good” acting and what are the ways it can be determined?
- How can one apply acting techniques on stage?
- Why is play analyzation an important step in the actor’s process?
- What is the language of theatre?
- How can improv games help develop an actor’s creativity and freedom of expression?

Theatre artists rely on intuition, curiosity and critical inquiry.

What happens when theatre artists use their imaginations and/or learned theatre skills while engaging in creative exploration and inquiry?

Theatre artists work to discover different ways of communicating meaning.

How, when, and why do theatre artists’ choices change?

Theatre artists refine their work and practice their craft through rehearsal.

How do theatre artists transform and edit their initial ideas?

Theatre artists develop personal processes and skills for a performance or design.

How do theatre artists fully prepare a performance or design?

Theatre artists make choices to convey meaning.

How do theatre artists use tools and techniques to communicate ideas and feelings?

Theatre artists, through a shared creative experience with an audience, present stories, ideas, and envisioned worlds to explore the human experience.

What happens when theatre artists and audiences share creative experiences?

Theatre artists reflect to understand the impact of drama processes and theatre experiences.

How do theatre artists comprehend the essence of drama processes and theatre experiences?

Theatre artists allow awareness of interrelationships between self and others to inform their work.

What happens when theatre artists foster understanding between self and others through critical awareness, social responsibility, and the exploration of empathy?

As theatre is created and experienced, personal experiences and knowledge are synthesized to interpret meaning and analyze the way in which the world may be understood.

What happens when theatre artists allow an understanding of themselves and the world to inform perceptions about theatre and the purpose of their work?

## Objectives

---

Students will know:

- Highlights of theater history and how their influence is felt (or not felt) today.

- The foundation of the realism movement and how its influence is felt today.
- The basic principles of the Stanislavski Method.

Students will be skilled at:

- Projecting and annunciating their voice to ensure they can be heard and understood.
- Breaking down monologues into basic parts as a first step towards the Stanislavski Method.
- Portraying basic characters through their voice and bodies.

## **Learning Plan**

---

- Study the roots of theater through Aristotle's Elements of Drama
- Discuss the realism movement in theater and its influences on theater of today
- Introduce the Stanislavski Method and monologues
- Revisit monologues and develop audition prep.

## **Assessments**

---

- Students will participate in multiple Socratic seminars and will be assessed on both content and behavior
- Students will present the same monologue at multiple points in the semester, focusing first on vocal support and later on performance
- Students will perform improv games and/or monologues at an Acting Showcase
- Students will perform a monologue and may opt to be considered for placement in Acting 2.

## **Materials**

---

- Scripts: A Doll's House; All My Sons; Oedipus Rex; Antigone; Romeo & Juliet; Macbeth; Hamlet; A Midsummer Night's Dream; Much Ado about Nothing; Twelfth Night

## **Suggested Strategies for Modifications**

---

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1A-PxTb->

[SqSbhdITWm8sCR69UJhJ2Oq\\_ixoy\\_hgPpInc/edit?gid=1426178898#gid=1426178898](http://SqSbhdITWm8sCR69UJhJ2Oq_ixoy_hgPpInc/edit?gid=1426178898#gid=1426178898)