

The Elements of Voice

Content Area: **Music**
Course(s):
Time Period: **Marking Period 2**
Length: **15**
Status: **Published**

Summary/Introduction

The focus of this unit is for students to learn a variety of techniques to strengthen and improve their vocal quality on stage.

Revised: August 2024

Essential Questions/Enduring Understandings

- How does the use of the actor's voice affect performance and character?
- Taking care of one's voice, exercising it, and warming it up is part of an actor's craft.
- What are techniques to producing correct sound?
- How can one take care of the vocal system?
- How do you speak onstage and how does this differ from speaking in more casual settings?
- What are methods of making sounds distinct?
- How could training the voice improve one's ability to do well in a variety of careers outside theater?

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.

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

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

How do theatre artists fully prepare a performance or design?

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

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

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?

How are the theatre artist's processes and the audience's perspectives impacted by analysis and synthesis?

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:

- how to produce sounds that resonate.
- how to shape sounds through articulation and use of the tongue.
- how to use their whole body to project and support their voice.

Students will be skilled at:

- Projecting and sustaining their voice.
- Articulating their words to ensure the audience not only hears but also understands them.
- Utilizing their voice in order to reinforce characterization.

Learning Plan

- Talk through the passage of breath through the body and its role in creating sound.
- Use breathing exercises to improve and make students aware of how they breathe.
- Have students time themselves on how long they can exhale both before and after engaging their diaphragm.
- Help students locate and then lift their soft palate to create resonance and greater projection.
- Use students' names as a means to explore how sounds are created using lips, tongue, teeth, and palates.
- Have students stand onstage and project to ensure they can be heard at the farthest reaches of the space.
- Play with characterization, determining how the voice can inform who a character is.

Assessments

- Students will present a monologue focusing entirely on voicework to practice their projection, diction, and characterization.
- Students will review these concepts in preparation for their showcase and be expected to synthesize these concepts to ensure they are heard and understood.
- Students will be assessed on these concepts again as part of their final.

Materials

- Journals

Suggested Strategies for Modifications

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

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