

Theatre Virtual Learning

Acting 3 & 4 Conditioning Forces

May 18



Lesson: **May 18**

Objective/Learning Target: The student will understand conditioning forces and how they help role analysis.

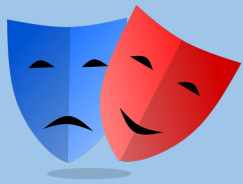


Conditioning Forces

Let's Get Started / Warm Up Activities:

Think about what your day was like when you got up. Did you eat breakfast? Was your favorite food gone? Did someone make it for you? Did you go hungry? Were you alone in the house? Was it noisy? What mood did all of that put you in?

All of those items are conditioning forces. They are what makes you act like you do. They are not planned and sometimes you are not aware of them, but they change you and how you react to what is presently going on around you.



Conditioning Forces

- In every scene, every character has conditioning forces.
- They change the character, like they change us.
- The way a character reacts to a situation they find themselves in is tempered by what conditioning forces has acted upon them.





Conditioning Forces

- Conditioning Forces should always be a part of character analysis
 - What just happened and how does my character feel about it?
 - What does my character want?
 - Are there forces keeping my character from what he/she wants?
 - What will my character be willing to do to get what he/she wants?

Character Analysis

Name: _____ Date: _____
Book: _____ Character Name: _____

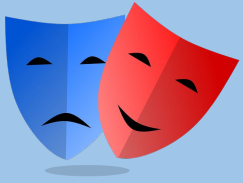
How does the character talk?

What is the character thinking?

What types of actions does the character take? (What do they do?)

What are the character's feelings about different events?

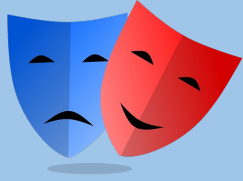
The worksheet features a central cartoon character of a boy with a red heart on his chest, wearing a white t-shirt, shorts, and sneakers. The text boxes are connected to the character by lines, indicating where to record observations about his speech, thoughts, actions, and feelings.



Conditioning Forces

- Keep in mind the scene is rarely about the conditioning forces.
- Those forces change how the character deals with what the scene is really about.
- Many things can affect a character



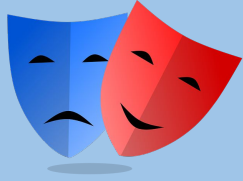


Conditioning Forces



- Example of things that can affect the character
 - Heat/Cold
 - Noise/Quiet
 - Hurry
 - Toothache
 - Blister on your foot
 - Head cold

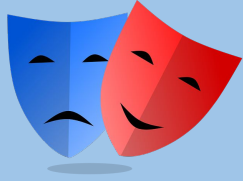




Conditioning Forces



- Consider how each thing might affect how a person acts
- How far could each force go in affecting the person
 - Eg. a throbbing headache could intensify when you lean down to tie a shoe. Where is the headache? What do you do to help it? What happens if you have to comb your hair? What happens if you are in a hurry?
- Each force can have any number of things that the actor can use to enhance the scene.



Practice: Applying a Concept



Select a character from the last television show you watched.

For that character, list their conditioning forces

What happened to them before the show started (if you know)?

What happened as the show began?

What about those forces made them react like they did as the show progressed?

Do you think the actor used conditioning forces to build the character?