

## Competitive Drama I-IV

### *Subtext & Character Depth*

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#### **Daily Objective**

- Students will understand how background and subtext can help create a scene with honest emotion and depth.
- Create a secret to explore their character and apply it to a scene.

**Bell Ringer/Let's Get Started:** How can secrets impact your interaction with others? Consider how secrets can be both good and bad in some situations. How does it influence how we interact with others?

**Lesson/Activity:** [Watch this episode from The Office.](#) Pay attention to Jim & Pam.

- Secrets can be key in helping us understand our character's motivation as well as creating a character with more depth than just knowing their name, age and personality. They are no longer stereotypical; they are human.
- "What is subtext?"
  - The underlying story. What is left unspoken. Anyone can read lines, it takes an actor to give them meaning and depth. This is what secrets can help us do.

**Practice:** Go go back to the scene at 14:38 and again at 19:47. Pay attention to how the secret gets in the way of the objectives of the characters in these scenes. How does it create a conflict or an obstacle? How could it specifically influence the staging and tactics used in this scene?

**Additional Resources:**