



**Comm Skills Virtual Learning**

# **Competitive Drama I-IV**

## **Lesson**

**May 15, 2020**



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**Objective/Learning Target:**

*What Makes a Good Monologue*

Deepen comprehension of the monologue form  
through analysis and evaluation.

Apply skills and practice on new monologues

# Bell Ringer/Let's Get Started

What differentiates a monologue from a speech?

# Lesson/Activity

1. What are the elements of a monologue?
2. What makes a monologue *good*?

# ELEMENTS OF A MONOLOGUE

- Text presented by a single character
- Uses the first person
- Can be comedic or dramatic
- Must reveal something: inner thoughts, emotions, secrets, a story, an answer to a question

So, what makes a monologue a *good* one?

# 3 CRITERIA FOR GOOD MONOLOGUES

- a reason to speak. *Why is the character talking at length?*
- a character specific language. *Who is the character and how do they speak?*
- a journey. *Where does the monologue start and end? Is there a journey from one emotion to another?*

# Practice

1. Read the monologue on the next slide aloud. What are your first impressions of the piece?
2. Identify the elements of a monologue in the piece:
  - a. Who is the speaker and who is she talking to?
  - b. What does she reveal in this monologue?
  - c. What can we learn about this character by how she talks?
  - d. Why does she need to speak?
  - e. What is the journey of the monologue? Identify the beginning story point, the middle story point, and the ending story point.
3. Evaluate the monologue: Is this piece a good monologue? Why or why not?

# Floating on a Don't Care Cloud by Lindsay Price

Character: TJ, female teen

*Fourteen-year-old TJ watches as her older brother Jamie becomes a pot addict. The farther away he moves from the brother she used to know, the more she doesn't know what to do. Throughout the whole play, she is being pulled in different directions. Should she step in or mind her own business? TJ is a smart girl who sees everything, but doesn't know what to do with what she sees. She finally confronts Jamie. He retorts that "it's just pot" and that "he's not dead." This is her response.*

But Jamie don't you see? You might as well be dead. You're standing in front of me and you don't see me. You're not here. You're staring at this. (holding up the joint) You want this. You do this instead of school. You do this instead of trying to figure out what you want in life. You don't care about anything. You look at me but I'm not here. We used to be so close Jamie and now I'm at one end of a tunnel and you're at the other end and we're never going to be in the same place, the same time again. You might as well be dead. (*she stands and crosses to JAMIE*) So I'm going to need you to choose. I need to know for sure whether I should keep hold of the shreds of the guy you used to be. Should I hold tight or let you go? (*holding up the joint*) Pot. Or me.