



Comm Skills Virtual Learning

Competitive Drama I-IV

Lesson

May 18, 2020



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Objective/Learning Target:

What Makes a Good Monologue

Review elements of a monologue

Review criteria of a good monologue

Practice and apply techniques to a classic script

Bell Ringer/Let's Get Started

Review: List the elements of a monologue and criteria of what makes it good.

Lesson/Activity

What is 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, the answer to a question

Lesson/Activity

What makes a GOOD monologue?

A need to speak. There has to be a reason that the character opens up in this moment: a need to share, a need to reveal, a need to explain.

A specific character voice. How a character speaks is essential to creating a Captivating monologue. What language do they use? At what pace do they talk? How do they convey their story (with run-on sentences, or with fits and starts)?

A journey. A monologue is a mini-play. It has to have a beginning, middle, and end. Where does the character start and end? The journey does not have to be a physical one. An emotional journey can be just as impactful

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?

Pygmalion by George Bernard Shaw

Character: Eliza Doolittle, Act Five

Eliza, a former lower-class flower seller, has been “plucked from the gutter” by Henry Higgins. Higgins plans to transform the flower girl into a duchess. By Act IV, Eliza realizes that she’s been a pawn in a game, and nothing but an experiment, which crushes her. But a by-product of the experiment is that she gains self-respect. She decides to assert her independence, which infuriates Henry. Although she is not as adept at wordplay as Henry, there is a key moment in the play when she calls his bluff to hit her and she realizes how to ultimately beat him at his own game.

Wring away. What do I care? I knew you’d strike me some day. *(he lets her go)* Aha! Now I know how to deal with you. What a fool I was not to think of before! You can’t take away the knowledge you gave me. You said I had a finer ear than you. And I can be civil and kind to people, which is more than you can. Aha! That’s done you, Henry Higgins, it has. Now I don’t care that *(snapping her fingers)* for your bullying and your big talk. I’ll advertise it in the papers that your duchess is only a flower girl that you taught, and that she’ll teach anybody to be a duchess just the same in six months for a thousand guineas. Oh, when I think of myself crawling under your feet and being trampled on and called names, when all the time I had only to lift up my finger to be as good as you, I could just kick myself.