

## Monologue Assignment

Ms. Levine

Theatre Arts II

- Choose a one minute monologue. **It must be from a published play.** Monologue selection due Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Active monologues – monologues that are talking directly to someone, trying to elicit a response – are much better than inactive pieces – i.e. memories, reminiscences, stories
- Type your monologue and print 3 copies (Scene, Tactics, Images).
  - Double spaced
  - Name in upper right
  - Name of play, author and character
- Read the play. You must understand the given circumstances, context, relationships.
- Turn your monologue into a scene. (Some class time will be allowed for this) Use the empty lines in your typed monologue to write the other character's lines and/or reactions. These may be in your script, or you can add them (make them up – what do you imagine this person saying or doing in response?)
- “Answer the ‘Hagen questions’ **in detail**. Decide on tactics for each line of the monologue. Write the tactics on copy 2.
- Circle the “image words” – the words that paint a picture in your head. For example, if you are talking about your father, you would circle the word “father”. Circle all image words and choose the **five** most important image words to either find or draw a picture for each of them – what does your father look like?
- Experiment with different interpretations – remember don't try to “be” sad, or happy or any emotion – you need to do something.
- Block and rehearse your monologue.
- **First performances (for feedback) – September 24-26**
- **Second Performances (for real) – September 27, October 1-2**
- **Due on Final Performance Date:**
  1. **Monologue as scene**
  2. **Image Words** (Image words circled, images on separate sheet – labeled with the image word)
  3. **Tactics** (Objectives – “to...\_\_\_\_\_”)
  4. **Hagen Questions** – answered from your character's perspective

\*\*Make 3 separate copies of your monologue, one each for monologue-to-scene, images, and tactics. Be sure your work is neat and easy-to-read ☺ If you hand-write your work, remember you can take a picture, insert it into a word document, and submit on Google Classroom.

**The Hagen Questions** - Generality is an enemy of art. Be specific. Answer as your character.

1. **What time is it?** Year, Season, Day, Minute
  - a. Why is this significant to you?
2. **Where am I?** Country, City, Neighborhood, House, Room, Alone
  - a. What does where I am mean to me? To the scene?
3. **What surrounds me?** Animate and inanimate objects
4. **What are the given circumstances?** What JUST happened? What is happening now? What is going to happen next? Remember that these are things you cannot change.
5. **What is my relationship?** Relation to total events, other characters (include characters not in the play/scene/monologue/song), and to **things**. Include the facts and what they MEAN to you.
6. **What sequence of events** led me to the first moment in the play/scene/monologue/song – What happened the *moment before* your entrance or first line?
7. **What do I want/need?** Character, main and immediate objectives
8. **What's in my way?** Obstacles to your wants/needs (from your character's point of view)
9. **What do I DO to get what I want?** The ACTION: physical, verbal
10. **'The scene not written'** – What are the stakes?
  - a. How do I hope things will turn out (best case scenario)?
  - b. In the worst case scenario, how might things turn out?

**Sample Tactics (you can choose others)**

Encourage  
Save (from something)  
Entreat/beg/plead  
Comfort/reassure  
Seduce/entice  
Set straight/convince  
Make her/him see something  
Knock some sense into  
Demand what is due you  
Do a number on  
Call someone on his/her baloney  
Prove  
Shame  
Challenge/test  
Warn provoke/taunt  
Spurn  
Tease/mock ridicule/humiliate  
Chastise/scold/rebuke  
Threaten  
Punish/make pay  
Condemn/destroy/demolish/annihilate

**Avoid these Tactics (they are inactive!)**

Answer/explain/inform/respond  
Question/inquire  
Admit  
Distract  
Remember  
Pity  
Avoid/ignore  
Escape  
Understand  
Submit  
Confess  
Excuse  
Relax  
Acknowledge

**Monologue Rubric**  
**Ms. Levine**  
**Theatre Arts II**

Character	Actor			
	Excellent 4	Good 3	Okay 2	Needs Improvement 1
<b>Audition Technique -20</b>				
Approach to the stage/ Set up of space/ Focus before the first words				
Introduction – your name, title, character, playwright				
Transition to monologue				
Beat at end of monologue/ Closing -thank you				
Focal Point – center				
<b>Performance – Physical - 8</b>				
Movement is believable, justified				
External traits (gesture/posture) convey character				
<b>Performance – Character - 36</b>				
Believable				
Objective was clear				
Obstacle was clear				
Reaction to invisible acting partner				
Range of actions – climax of script & actions – variety				
Facial expressions				
Conveyed author's intent/told the story				
Effective/appropriate use of pauses				
Strong, compelling use of actions				
<b>Performance – Voice - 4</b>				
Used vocal variety to convey action/objective				
<b>Memorization - 4</b>				
Moves smoothly - no memory breaks or ad lib				
<b>Total Excellent</b>				
<b>Total Good</b>				
<b>Total Okay</b>				
<b>Total Needs Improvement</b>				
<b>Total Performance</b>				
<b>Analysis - 40</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>
Answers are detailed and complete (Hagen Questions)				
Image words are identified, images are included, complete, and labeled				
Monologue As Scene – thoughtful, strong choices				
Strong and appropriate tactics are chosen				
<b>Total Analysis</b>				
<b>Total raw score</b>	<b>/112</b>			
<b>Egregious Errors – minus 5 points</b>				
Uncontrolled personal mannerisms				
Poor projection/articulation				
Broke character				
<b>Final Score</b>	<b>/112</b>			

