Instructional Unit Title: Using Improvisation to Create Who, What, When, Where, Why

The teacher may use a variety of activities to create and build collegiality so that students can begin to develop a sense of ensemble and risk-taking comfort.

The teacher may use a variety of resources and experiences to introduce the purpose and application of theatrical improvisation so that students can begin assessing and justifying improvisational choices from multiple perspectives/vantage points.

The teacher may introduce a “Who” activity to co-construct a group definition of “who” so that students can explore ways to create and develop character traits in improvisational work(s).

The teacher may introduce a “What” activity to co-construct a group definition of “what” so that students can explore ways to purposefully include actions in improvisational work(s).

The teacher may introduce a “When” activity to co-construct a group definition of “when” so that students can explore ways to use time (day/night, season, etc.) to help determine actions in improvisational work(s).

The teacher may introduce a “Where” activity to co-construct a group definition of “where” so that students can explore the ways in which specific locations (boardroom, bedroom, kitchen, etc.) grounds and strengthens focus in improvisational work(s).

The teacher may introduce a “Why” activity to co-construct a group definition of “why” so that students can explore ways to establish character motivations and the connections between motivation and powerful improvisational work(s).

The teacher may guide students in a collaborative rehearsal process so that students can consider the ways in which structure informs improvisational work to help create fully realized performances.

The teacher may introduce a “Why” activity to co-construct a group definition of “why” so that students can explore ways to establish character motivations and the connections between motivation and powerful improvisational work(s).

The teacher may introduce a “Where” activity to co-construct a group definition of “where” so that students can explore the ways in which specific locations (boardroom, bedroom, kitchen, etc.) grounds and strengthens focus in improvisational work(s).

The teacher may introduce a “When” activity to co-construct a group definition of “when” so that students can explore ways to use time (day/night, season, etc.) to help determine actions in improvisational work(s).

The teacher may introduce a “What” activity to co-construct a group definition of “what” so that students can explore ways to purposefully include actions in improvisational work(s).

The teacher may introduce a “Who” activity to co-construct a group definition of “who” so that students can explore ways to create and develop character traits in improvisational work(s).

The teacher may guide students in a collaborative rehearsal process so that students can consider the ways in which structure informs improvisational work to help create fully realized performances.

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(Post Performance Assessment) The teacher may facilitate a self-assessment process so that students can reflect on the (improvisational) creative process and analyze how the reflective process can enhance future work/performance.

Performance Assessment: As an acting troupe, you and your team are going to an open call for an improvisational theatre company and will be performing for the casting directors and fellow actors. You will participate, through group collaboration, in presenting and responding to an improvisational scene that uses “Who, What, When, Where, and Why” in order to capture characterization, motivation, and application of improvisation in a performance. You will use your classmates as a “test” audience to finalize your audition and reflect on your performance.

This unit was authored by a team of Colorado educators. The unit is intended to support teachers, schools, and districts as they make their own local decisions around the best instructional plans and practices for all students. To see the entire instructional unit sample with possible learning experiences, resources, differentiation, and assessments visit http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/instructionalunitsamples.

Colorado Teacher-Authored Instructional Unit Sample Storyboard

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