

Materials:

Role on Wall Copies (white printer paper)
Markers
Pens
Folders for student work, one per class

Objectives/Essential Questions:

- Why and how do we share stories?
- What is playwriting?
- How does *theme* play a part in the stories we tell?

Outline:

5 minutes: Introduction
5 minutes: Check In
5 minutes: Playwriting Community Expectations
5 minutes: What is YPC?
15 minutes: Theme Brainstorm: Role on the Wall
5 minutes: Closing

5 minutes: Introduction

We're from Triad Stage which is a theatre company here in Greensboro that produces plays. Sometimes we produce and write our own plays. We'll be talking about how we can write our own plays and share our stories. We'll be with your class for five days over the next few weeks. We're going to be working on playwriting, and specifically playwriting about a specific theme. We're going to be thinking about some specific essential questions, too (read them).

5 min: Check in:

We're going to go around and say our name and the kind of play we think would be cool to write or to see (ie favorite genre - drama, comedy, soap opera, telenovela, romantic comedy etc).

5 min: Playwriting Community Expectations

Over the next few weeks, we are going to be working towards writing a play. Writing a play is a new experience for many of us, so it's particularly important to be respectful of our peers during this playwriting process.

What would a classroom environment that is safe for writing and sharing look like?

Students will brainstorm and we will write these down on the board (or a sheet of butcher paper - make sure to take photos to document for future reference if needed).

5 Minutes: What is YPC?

We're here to support you in writing and submitting a ten minute play for the program Young Playwrights for Change.

Here's a little bit more about Young Playwrights for Change: this is a competition program where middle school students write a ten-minute play centered around a theme. We will talk about the theme a little bit later today.

First of all, let's talk about what playwriting IS. What are some things you know about the playwriting process? How is it different from writing a book or an essay?

Here are some guidelines of YPC:

- The play should be no longer than ten minutes when read aloud.
- The play can have UP TO but not more than six characters.
- The play should be focused on a theme, which we will spend some time talking about later today.

15 minutes: Theme Brainstorm

Our theme is Discovering the Truth about Ourselves and Others.

Let's break that down- what words do you hear? What does this make you think of? What are some things that can be true about people (guide to beliefs, gender, race, etc. if necessary)?

From here, we'll draw the outline of a person, explaining that we'll be exploring truths about ourselves and others in our community.

For right now, we'll be exploring **some discoveries that you can make about yourself and others.**

What are some discoveries you could make about yourself?

Here are some examples:

My family is important to me. I hate algebra. I miss elementary school.

Students will have time to think and then they will have the opportunity to share out. The facilitator will write these inside of the body.

Next, we invite you to consider discoveries that you can make about other people.

Here are some examples: I like my friends. (They make me feel loved). People can dress differently than me or celebrate different holidays. Other people may believe different things than I do (what kind of beliefs? Political, religious, ways of solving problems, etc.).

Students will have time to think and then they will have the opportunity to share out. The facilitator will write these outside of the body.

5 minutes: Closing

Explain that students will be filling out their own body outline. What discoveries you can make about yourself? What discoveries can you make about others? Pay attention to anything that you have a strong reaction to because this could be an indicator of something you might want to explore further in your writing.

Homework:

Fill out Role on the Wall for themselves.