

NAME: _____ PERIOD: _____

WAR MONOLOGUE

Advanced Theatre 8

War Monologue Assignment

REQUIREMENTS:

- Create an original monologue based on a real or fictitious character that is affected by an American war of your choice (Revolutionary, Civil war, World War I, World War II, Korean, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, Iraq/Afghanistan).
- The monologue should be 2-5 minutes in length, and you will memorize and perform the monologue for an audience as part of a “living museum” type of performance.
- Write the monologue either as a character saying their thoughts and feelings to the audience, or as if they’re talking to an imaginary person as part of a scene.
- Your monologue should be historically accurate and inform the audience what it was like to have the war affect your character.
- As you think of what to write, use your personal experiences to make your writing interesting. Use emotional recall and sensory recall to make your performance authentic.
- Answer the character analysis questions below to help develop your character.

MONOLOGUE WRITING TIPS:

- Use these ideas to help guide the content of your monologue. Write about...
 - Things we have done or not done in our own lives
 - People we have met, known, loved, hated, feared or respected
 - Ageless stories or myths, perhaps told from a new viewpoint
 - Ideas for resolving various conflicts
 - A puzzlement (something we don’t understand)
- Inform the audience of the five W’s (who, what, when, where and why) as early as possible in the monologue:
 - Who is speaking to whom?
 - What is happening?
 - When is this occurring?
 - Where is this occurring?
 - Why is this happening?
- Find a picture of a person to help inspire a character you can bring to life. You may either use photographs provided in class, or bring your own photo from home.

Character Analysis Questions

DIRECTIONS: *Answer the following questions from your character’s point of view about themselves.*

1. What is your name? How old are you?
2. What is your family background? (*Include your ethnicity such as German, African, Indian, etc.*)
3. How would you describe yourself physically? Include your height, weight, facial features, hair color and skin tone. Also, be sure to note any outstanding physical trait or condition that makes you unique.

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4. How would you describe your stance, posture, walk and movement?

5. What gestures, mannerisms, or habits do you use unconsciously?

6. How do you dress?

7. How do you sound? Describe your voice quality. Is it high or low, nasal or guttural? Do you speak with a drawl, twang, accent or dialect? Do you make any unusual sounds such as wheezing or grunting?

8. Think about your background. Where did you grow up? What type of environment shaped your early life? What kind of relationship do you have with your family?

9. Think about intellect. How would you describe your mental capabilities?

10. What is your position in society? Are you rich, poor, important or powerful?

11. When do you live? (*What year or war time period?*)

12. Where do you live? (*Include, city, country, and description of house.*)

13. Do you work? If so, at what?

14. What is a typical day for my character like?

15. How do you treat other people? How do others treat you?

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16. Do you have a secret that you try to hide? If so, what is it?
17. What is your biggest life goal or your goal within this monologue?
18. What is the problem or obstacle standing in the way of fulfilling the want or need? What are you willing to do to eliminate the obstacles?
19. What is the primary emotion you feel throughout this piece? How does the emotion change, if at all?
20. What kind of self-esteem does my character have? (*Confident? Insecure?*)
21. What emotion should the audience feel toward my character? (*Sympathy, hate, friendly?*)
22. What is your greatest fear?
23. What is your greatest accomplishment?
24. What is your objective in this scene? What do you want? Does it coincide with or conflict with other character's motivations?
25. Do you have your wants achieved at the end of the monologue? If not, will you ever have those wants achieved?