



Directing 101
IESA Speech Workshop
Steve Williams
20 Sept 2013

Six Week rehearsal Process:

Week 1: Blocking/Movement + Set Memorization Goal/Expectations

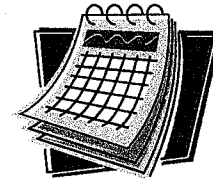
Week 2: Blocking Finish/Review + Set New Memorization Goal

Week 3: Voice and Diction/Blocking Review + Review Memorization Expectation.

Week 4: Lines Due

Week 5: Character Work (Parent Performance)

Week 6: Polish



Week 1: Blocking/Movement

Stage Areas:

UR	UC	UL
R	C	L
DR	DC	DL

AUDIENCE

U = UP
D = DOWN
R = RIGHT
L = LEFT
C = CENTER
X = CROSS
NTR = ENTER
XT = EXIT

Encourage students to write their blocking using these stage areas and blocking terminology.

They can also draw the "set."

During movement rehearsals, be sure to keep them facing out toward the audience, and include gestures and miming.

Memorization Goals: Split the script into thirds. Emphasize to them that it will be much easier for them to learn 2 1/2 minutes of dialogue a week than to put it off until Week 4. Ask them to have sections memorized by next rehearsal.

This is a dream. It never happens, but it gives you ammo for later.

Week 3: Voice and Diction



- Projection: Speaking loud enough so as to be heard.
- Diction: Hitting consonants so as to be understood.
- Dynamics: Vary pitch, pace, and volume to communicate subtext.

Week 4: Lines due

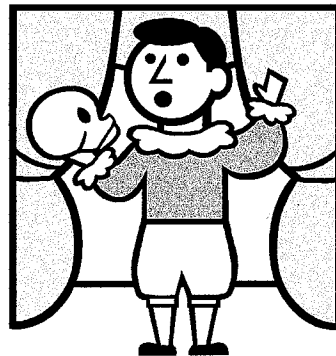
- No scripts onstage.
- You may have to threaten, cajole, or plead. You may have to be mean, lay on the guilt.
- Remember that they only really enjoy speech if they have success.

Week 5: Parent Performance/Character Work

- Character development—Character bio, objectives, listening/reacting. Engagement
- Parent Performance—If you are capable, this is the ideal week to have a parent preview night. You usually have schedules from the contest, and general information that can be handed out. It forces the contestants to be “performance ready” a week before the contest. Get high school students who were successful in your program or who participate in high school speech to judge.
- If you have not done so already try to time the piece.

Week 6: Polish/Character Work

- Do a full run through without stopping them.
- Tweak/polish, but don't make major changes.



Notes: