Instructional Unit Title: Using Improvisation to Devise a Scripted Scene

Drama and Theatre Arts
8th Grade

The teacher may brainstorm significant cultural events and important life experiences so that students can begin to share personal observations and to recognize the diversity of perspectives among their peers.



The teacher may organize the events and experiences (see brainstorming exercise in Learning Experience #1) so that students can begin to categorize cultural events and life experiences around common themes.



The teacher may guide the students through improvisational warm-up activities and/or team building exercises so that students can begin to develop a sense of community and risk-taking comfort.



The teacher may coach students' through theatre improvisational games and exercises so that students can begin exploring ways to creatively illuminate significant cultural events and important life experiences.



The teacher may facilitate a collaborative rehearse, revise, and prepare process so that students can use peer feedback to develop and strengthen a performance.



The teacher may use/engage collaborative writing groups so that students can use the peer feedback process to develop and strengthen basic elements of story; beginning, middle, and end related to a central focus.



The teacher may facilitate script writing activities related to (more) structured theatrical work so that students can begin using improvisational experiences to inform the creation of focused written pieces.



The teacher may use categories/themes of events and experiences (see Learning Experience # 2) so that students can identify observations that can potentially provide compelling bases for the creation of more structured theatrical performance.



(Post Performance Assessment)
The teacher may facilitate a class discussion on the improvisation-to-script process so that students can evaluate and reflect upon the development of their personal creative process.



PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT: Your new agent has just secured you an audition for a pilot T.V. show reviving the old show "This is Your Life!" The new spin for the show will be to revisit a person's life events through improvisation and scripted works (similar in ways to the old show, "Whose Line is it Anyway?"). As part of the audition, you have been asked to reenact a scene depicting a significant cultural event and/or important life experience through improvisation. You will then use that same cultural event or life experience and work collaboratively with fellow prospective cast members to develop a scripted work based on the improvisation. Following a rehearsal and revision process, you will participate in a culminating performance for a "test" audience.

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.