

Big Before Broadway Creative Challenge: Calling New Musicals

<https://thenationaldcprebroadway.org>



Activity Overview

Grade Level: High School (9th – 12th) **Materials Needed:** Pen or pencil, paper
Subjects: ELA/Literacy, Playwriting **Activity Format:** Individual
Estimated Time: 20-30 min

Summary: Students will bring back the Pre-Broadway Tryout experience to The National Theatre. If students had a chance to bring an original musical to the stage, what would it be? It's time for their ideas to be considered.

Activity Guide

- Ask students to review the history of past shows that were successful and shows that struggled on the *Big Before Broadway* website. This will give them an idea of what audiences wanted to see and hear during those time periods. Direct students to think about their audience, their generation, and come up with a musical theatre concept. Ask students to put on their director's hat and develop a musical theatre concept that could be tried out at The National Theatre before moving on to other theatre spaces.
- Students will write a paper using clear examples of figurative language in the form of a letter to The National Theatre's Executive Director, proposing that their new musical be performed at The National. The letter should explain why the student wants the show to be housed at The National Theatre.
- Use the following questions to guide students through the writing process: What is the show about? This is the heart of the assignment! What issues does the musical explore? What is there about this topic/theme that makes it interesting to your generation? Different? Exciting? What is the genre of the musical? Who will the audience be? Who might the performers be? Think about present day stars that might fit the roles.



THE NATIONAL THEATRE
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