

Big Before Broadway Creative Challenge: Ten Minute Play

<https://thenationaldcprebroadway.org>



Activity Overview

Grade Level: High School (9th – 12th)

Subjects: ELA/Literacy, Playwriting

Estimated Time: 45-60min

Materials Needed: Pen or pencil, notebook paper, brainstorming worksheet (see below), Post-It-Notes

Activity Format: Individual

Summary: Students will develop writing skills and exercise creativity by writing their own original play in ten minutes.

Activity Guide

1. Instruct students to brainstorm a list of words, phrases, and ideas that come to mind when they hear the phrase "Ten-Minute Play." Have students come up with one word or phrase for each letter of the alphabet using the worksheet included below.
2. Review the words, phrases, and ideas on the worksheets with the students and ask them, "How would you define a 'Ten-Minute Play'?" Then tell them that they will each have the opportunity to write their own "Ten-Minute Play."
3. Give students Post-Its and ask them to write the biggest challenge they perceive to writing a "Ten-Minute Play" on one side. On the other side of the Post-It, instruct students to write what they perceive as the biggest advantages to writing an original story.
4. Set a timer for ten minutes and instruct students to write continuously, taking into consideration the following guidelines: The goal is quantity, not quality of writing. Students should write as quickly as they can without limitations and should not stop to edit or revise anything. Students should not attempt to analyze, think logically about, or understand what they are writing. Students should not pay attention to grammar, spelling, or punctuation. Additionally, students do not need to take into consideration margins or lines on the page; they should write everywhere. The goal is for students to write. Remind them if they cannot think of something to write, they can write about that. Tell them to try to not cross out anything they write. Encourage students to write about whatever emotions come up during the exercise, even if they are embarrassing, painful, or frightening, because strong emotions spark strong writing.

A to Z Brainstorming Worksheet



A _____

J _____

S _____

B _____

K _____

T _____

C _____

L _____

U _____

D _____

M _____

V _____

E _____

N _____

W _____

F _____

O _____

X _____

G _____

P _____

Y _____

H _____

Q _____

Z _____

I _____

R _____

