

# West Side Stories Creative Challenge: Unheard Dialogues

<https://thenationaldcwestsidestory.org>



## Activity Overview

**Grade Level:** High School (9th – 12th)

**Subjects:** ELA/Literacy, Playwriting

**Estimated Time:** 20-30 min

**Materials Needed:** Pen or pencil, paper, [West Side Story script](#)

**Activity Format:** Pairs

**Summary:** Through this creative writing assignment, students will have a unique chance to improve the characters in *West Side Story* by developing their inner feelings, thoughts, reactions, doubts, and fears.

## Activity Guide

1. For reference, you may have students read through portions of the script of *West Side Story* available to download [here](#).
2. Assign or instruct students to choose a partner to work with for this project.
3. Instruct each pair to select a scene from *West Side Story* that they connect with.
4. Next, have students select one of the "script prompts" from the list below.
5. Students will use their chosen "script prompts" to expand upon the existing scene they chose from *West Side Story*. The selected "script prompt" should be included **at least three times** in the students' written dialogue.
6. For added fun, students may perform their dialogues for the class, or film them to show to classmates later.
7. Examples of how DCPS students have used these "script prompts" to create original scenes can be found [here](#).

List of "script prompts":

Prompt 1: Character 1 *I want this...* Character 2 *You can't have it...*

Prompt 2: Character 1 *I want to love...* Character 2 *You can't handle this...*

Prompt 3: Character 1 *Help me out...* Character 2 *Sorry I can't do that...*

Prompt 4: Character 1 *Give me respect...* Character 2 *Why would I?*



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