

**Culver City High School
Academy of Visual and Performing Arts Program**

Playwriting Workshop

Class hours per week: 5

Fall 13 Rm: Comp 73

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Description

The objective of this Playwriting Workshop is to sharpen students' creative writing skills and to teach them the elements of playwriting and character development. Through the reading of plays and practice writing exercises each week, students will learn the craft of playwriting. They will write scenes, learn how to thoughtfully critique each other's work, and create their own one act plays.

Attendance and critique of fellow student's plays will also be required.

Required Texts

Provided by the instructor.

Objectives:

Each student should have a thorough grounding in the theory and principles of playwriting.

Each student should develop an understanding of the social context of theatre in contemporary practice.

Each student should develop a strong self-discipline and an ability to work independently.

Each student should be able to communicate effectively in writing and verbally.

Each student should have the ability to read and analyze a broad range of dramatic literature.

Each student should be able to read a play and be articulate about the transformation of the written word into the theatrical event.

Requirements and Evaluation of Students

Students are expected to write weekly writing assignments. A one act play is to be submitted by the end of the semester. Work will often be presented to the entire class. On these occasions, students must provide a reasonable number of copies of their work. **Since this class is a workshop, failure to bring each assignment on the day it is due will result in an absence and decrease of grade.** Class participation includes providing constructive feedback on peer projects, as well as attendance; as a result, **any absences beyond two or lack of participation will directly affect a student's grade.** Leaving early or arriving late will count as half an absence.

Grades: 40% One Act Play

15% ON TIME Rough draft of play
15% ON TIME Second presentation of play
15% In-class Assignments
15% Participation

E. Outline of Topics

Week 1: Introduction, Format, Autobiographical piece OR Worst Play Ever

Week 2: *DOUBT* PLOT Dialogue, Conversations, Scenes inspired by classic plots

Week 3: *BLACKBIRD* CHARACTER Piece inspired by news paper article, Scene with character based on image Conforming the Obvious

Week 4: *THE MARRIAGE OF BETTE AND BOO*, DIALOGUE Scene “translating” foreign language opera,

Week 5: Six students present drafts of their plays in process. 10/15

Week 6: Six students present drafts of their plays in process.

Week 7: Six students present drafts of their plays in process.

Week 8: Three students present drafts of their plays in process. **NO CLASS THURSDAY 11/7**

Week 9: Three students present more of their plays. **NO CLASS THURSDAY 11/14**

Week 10: Six students present more of their plays.

Week 11: Three students present more of their plays. **NO CLASS THURSDAY 11/28**

*Week 12: Six students present more of their plays.

ALL OTHERS MUST TURN IN FINAL DRAFTS OF PLAY 12/5

Week 13: **Individual Conferences about Plays (*Week 12 prsntrs turn in final drafts 12/12)**

Week 14: **Individual Conferences about Plays (*Including Week 12 presenters)**

LAST CHANCE TO TURN IN ANY MISSING WORK. 12/17

Last Day 12/19

Attendance Policy

Coming to class more than 30 minutes late will count as one absence. Coming to class late less than thirty minutes four times counts as one absence. **Three absences are grounds for dismissal.**