

BIG SKY HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA DEPARTMENT

DRAMA I



STUDENT HANDBOOK

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BIG SKY HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA

Take elective classes with *enthusiasm* and *desire* to learn all that you can.

The curricular offerings for the BSHS Drama Department are as follows:

Drama I: Open to any student of any grade level enrolled at Big Sky High School

Drama II: Open to students who have completed and passed Drama I and by audition interview/consent of instructor – grades 10 -12

Drama III: By audition only – primarily in grades 11 -12.

Drama III/IV: By audition only – students in grades 12 who have completed Drama II and III.

Technical Theatre: By consent of instructor – students should have completed and passed Drama I to be enrolled in this course. Course is for students primarily in grades 11-12 but open to any grade level upon consent of instructor.

Film Studies: By consent of instructor - students should have completed and passed Drama I to be enrolled in this course. Primarily for students in 11-12 grade but open to grade 10 upon consent.

Movement for the Theatre: Open to any student of any grade level enrolled at Big Sky High School with Drama I completion or audition/consent of instructor

IB Drama: Standard Level and High Level – Two year program beginning Junior Year.
Prerequisite – Drama I

See the Instructor for more information on any of the above listed classes

Extra-Curricular Program:

School Plays: By audition only – extra-curricular, generally the elite students dedicated to drama and performing. Open to all grade levels. Any student enrolled at Big Sky High School may audition for the plays or technical positions. Although not a requirement, it is often helpful for students who wish to participate in all school productions to have completed Drama I.

Thespians: By Membership only. Members of this extra-curricular, elite troupe have earned the right to be honored as Thespians through points earned working on upper level class performances and outside of class activities. This program is offered to any student enrolled at Big Sky High School who has completed the requirements to earn membership into the Big Sky High School International Thespian Honor Society of Troupe 3090.

Travel Opportunities: Each year there may be opportunities for students to go on special trips arranged through the Drama Department. Students who wish to be able go on these trips must be academically eligible, able to pay all fees/funds before the trip begins, and approved by the Drama Instructor to go on the trip. Trips may include Spokane – day trip, New York –week long trip, and Nebraska to attend the International Thespian Festival – summer trip.



BIG SKY HIGH SCHOOL

DRAMA

STUDENT EVALUATION / GRADING

Grading Policy

Drama is unique to the curriculum in that it is a performance-based organization. Students involved in Drama classes must understand that each class scheduled day is considered a necessary part of the class curriculum and will be treated as such. It is the philosophy of the department that each student is responsible not only to him or herself, but is responsible to other students for participation in class work and class performances.

Basic Class Expectations:

- **Be Respectful and Kind**
- **Be Prepared and On Time**
- **Participate and Do Your Best**

The following areas will be used for grading purposes.

I. Daily Participation and Attendance: Daily "in class" work will consist of warm-up exercises, rehearsal of performance material, note taking, reading of plays, and various other dramatic exercises. Students have the opportunity to earn a maximum of 10 participation points per class period.

Ways to earn daily participation points:

- Demonstrate kindness toward your teacher and fellow classmates
- Follow the theatre rules outlined in your syllabus
- Arrive to class on time
- Come to class prepared
 - Always bring a notebook/folder, writing utensil, and whatever script or handout we're working on
- Demonstrate a positive attitude
- Offer respect to teacher and classmates
- Show an enthusiasm for the study of theatre

Ways to lose daily participation points:

- Unexcused absence: 0/10 (minus 10)
- Late to class 4/10 (minus 6)
- Gum in mouth after class begins: 5/10 (minus 5)
- Hat on head after class begins: 5/10 (minus 5)
- Eating or drinking non-water after class begins: 5/10 (minus 5)
- Unprepared for work/rehearsal: 5/10 (minus 5)
 - Not having required materials (pen, paper, scripts, props, costume pieces, etc.)
 - Not knowing your lines/blocking.
- Lack of focus on classwork: 5/10 (minus 5 for each reminder)
 - This may include, but is not limited to:
 - Conversing with another classmate about topics unrelated to Drama class or the task at hand.
 - Talking while another person is talking (teacher, classmates, guest speakers, etc.)
 - Talking or leaving the room during a film or performance.

As individuals, we each need to be responsible for self-discipline. This requires **Integrity**. Essentially this means: Doing the right thing even when we don't feel like it

Students who are consistently earning 0 points on weekly basis will be asked to leave the class permanently as they are disruptive to the education of the other students.



BIG SKY HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA

Attendance Policy

Tardies: Students are tardy if they are not in their assigned seat when the bell rings. For each tardy within a semester, six points will be deducted from your Daily Participation Grade. Students who are consistently tardy will be referred to the office.

Excused Absences: Absences happen. In all Drama classes, even an excused absence must be made up somehow. For each class absence, you will receive a zero for your daily participation grade. Make up work may be assigned for any rehearsal missed due to excused absences. It is the student's responsibility to ask for missed assignments (See the following page for how to complete makeup work for missed classes)

School-Sponsored Absences: Student must inform the classroom teacher in advance that they will be missing class due to a school-sponsored activity. Students must make up any assigned written work within one week of the absence or the student will receive a "0" on the assignment. Daily participation points can be made up following the excused absences policy form. (Information included on the following page)

Performance Absences: Absences from final class performances may be excused by the instructor in the event of serious illness or family emergency. School activities conflicting may also be excused **if arranged IN ADVANCE** between the instructors involved. Excused absences must be verified by a written note or phone call from a parent/ guardian or school affiliated coach. Excused absences must be made up using materials assigned by the instructor within two weeks of the missed performance. The student is responsible for getting the assignment from the instructor. A percentage grade will be awarded based upon the results of that material. Material/final performances not completed within the stated two week time period and unexcused absences will result in the percentage grade of "0" for that event (letter grade of F). **It is in your best interest to not be absent for performances**

Unexcused Absences, Suspensions, or Truancy: The student will receive a "0" for daily participation grade or for any other graded activity missed during the absence. This cannot be made up unless otherwise indicated by the school office.

Assignments: There will be a few written assignments. Assignments are always due at the beginning of the period. **NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED!!** Be sure to head your papers: Name, Period, Date, and Assignment Name.

Academic Honesty: I expect that all my students will be honest in their accomplishment on tests, homework, papers, or projects. Students guilty of cheating/plagiarism will receive a zero on that assignment. If a student is guilty of cheating/plagiarism a second time, he/she will be immediately dropped from that class and an "F" will be recorded for the semester.

Attendance: Class time is very important. If you are absent, **it is your responsibility to make up the work.** **Do not expect me to come after you about it.**

- If you need clarification or don't understand something, ask me questions before the bell rings or at the end of class/after school. I am happy to set up a meeting time with you.

HOW TO MAKE UP EXCUSED ABSENCES

Absences happen. Often they are excused. However, in a performance class, *even an excused absence must be made up somehow*. All drama classes at Big Sky High School are performance classes.

It is always your responsibility to check with me to see what you missed. I will not track you down.

- If you miss an in-class rehearsal day, it will be up to you to arrange a time to meet with your partner if you are working on a scene to make up the rehearsal; for a monologue, you'll need to come in before school, at lunch, or after school to put in the time you missed.
- If you miss a in class performance day, you will need to set up a time with me to make it up **outside of class**.
- If you have missed **any other day in class**, you can make up the ten daily participation points by picking up copies of Dramatics Magazine articles from me or by visiting www.playbill.com.
- Read an interview or an article. If you choose a news article from Playbill, it must be longer than five paragraphs.
- Bring me a paragraph summary of the article (**at least** five sentences) detailing the most important points of the article **and** one sentence connecting the information you read to a concept we have covered in class. (If your absence takes place early in the semester, hypothesize: tell me what you think it might possibly do with the information gained in a beginning/intermediate/advanced Drama class.)
- You may choose to present your paragraph in one of the following ways:
 1. Site the article Title, who wrote it, and where it is found. Word processes your paragraph in a clear thought-out format. Make sure you include quotes and responses to what the point the quote is making in your paragraph summary.
Or
 2. Print out your article; highlight what is interesting to you and what you are going to respond to. Add the article in a Drama specific journal with your hand written notes on the side and your hand written summery paragraph at the bottom of the article.
- The paragraph will be due in class on the third day following your absence. (So if you're absent on a Monday, you will have two in class days to get it turned in. Thus it would be due Friday – this gives you 4 days to complete the work.)



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STUDENT EVALUATION / GRADING (cont.)

II. Class Performance Work: Performances work is required. Performance is considered to equal a major exam. Each student satisfactorily participating in a performance will receive a passing letter grade based on creativity and skills demonstrated.

Each infraction (i.e., tardiness, improper performance behavior, etc.) lowers the student's grade.

It is strongly recommended that student avoid being absent from any performance. See notes above for performance absences. **Please try to make attendance in this class a priority as fellow students are counting on you to be in class and able to perform with the group.**

III. Written Work/Tests: Portfolio grades, daily written work, notes, quizzes, tests and/or memorization tests will be given each quarter. In addition one paper critiquing a live theatre performance will be required each quarter. (This equals 2 critiques a semester)

- 1. Students are required to see one Big Sky High School drama production a semester.**
- 2. Students are required to see one other drama production outside of the required Big Sky High School production.**
- 3. Students are required to write critiques on the theater productions they have seen. All critiques must be organized according to the critique format handout found in the Drama I classroom portfolio as well as at the end of this handbook.**

Note: If this requirement should cause a financial hardship, see the instructor. **Lack of funds or not being able to get off from work/activities will not be accepted as an excuse for not participating in fulfilling this requirement.** If you have a problem with this assignment, see the instructor immediately so that arrangements may be made for you to fulfill this requirement.

One cannot study drama or theater effectively without the experience of being a member of an audience at a live performance.

All written work, assignments, and performance-based work must be completed and turned in ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE END OF EACH SEMESTER. No assignments will be accepted after that date.

- **Students will be instructed on proper etiquette, and will be required to be a good audience during all class and school performances.**
- **Students will be required to complete the homework assignments of viewing television VHS and DVD movies in order to study elements of technical theatre including but not limited to sound, set, costumes, special effects, make-up, advertising, and musical scores.**
- **Students will also be required to memorize published scenes and monologues.**
- **Students will be required to complete the actor's study unit in which the student selects an actor of his/her choice to study through video, internet, and library resources.**

Students will be instructed as to where they can find out about upcoming performances in the Missoula and surrounding areas.



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A failure for the semester will result when a student does not carry through with their major requirements, (such as seeing drama productions) completing their written work, and or performance work. Your grade per quarter will be broken down into the following categories: 1/3 performance work, 1/3 written work and tests, 1/3 attendance and daily work. Your performance work will be taken into account in each of these areas. For example attending class but sleeping does not count for being in class and working. Your semester grade will be figured from the total number of points available for the entire semester. **You will not pass the class if you do not complete the class requirements.**

(Detailed class requirements can be found in the student's classroom folders and is included with this handout for parents/guardians)

Each class period you will work on a performance assignment that will earn points toward a daily work grade.

If you are not in class you cannot be graded. Due to the nature of this class, rehearsal time cannot be made up. Once you have rehearsed and performed the exercise or game for the class period, it is over. Time cannot start again when it is convenient for you to be in class. It is the same as if you were on a basketball team. If you didn't get to play in the game, the game is not made up or played over when you can be there.

Being rude, sleeping, reading, working on other assignments, etc, will result in 0 points for work completed in that class period and 0 points for work assigned during class.

As Drama is on of the arts, not only is it important that the work, both written and oral, be well done, but also that it be presented in a creative and skillful manner. Much of the student's grade will depend on how well he/she can use his/her creative ability.

Remember to receive a passing grade you must:

- 1. BE ON TIME, Prepared with a writing utensil for and WORK in every class.**
- 2. Be respectful to teacher and classmates.**
- 3. Participate and Present your work in a creative and skillful manner.**
- 4. Have a positive attitude, show enthusiasm for theatre and HAVE FUN.**
- 5. Complete the class requirements TWO critiques per semester.**

Extra Credit may be earned when a student has completed all of the class assignments. Viewing an extra performance and writing a critique on the performance can bring a students grade up one whole letter grade.

In the fall, students can earn extra credit points for participating in Trick or Treat so Kids Can Eat, our Drama departments fall food drive for the local food bank. Each can of food earns students 5 points extra credit.

Students can earn extra credit points through bringing in examples of advertising in films and or film mistakes. (5 points earned for each example)

**Students are given every opportunity to succeed and earn an A in Drama class.
The student is responsible for the grade he/she earns.**



BIG SKY HIGH SCHOOL

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DRAMA AWARDS & LETTER AWARD REQUIREMENTS

Because of the great amount of time and effort exerted by many Big Sky Drama students in their theatre activities, a letter award is given to afford these students due recognition and incentive. **In order to letter in drama, one school year, a student must achieve 10 points or 100 hours working in the theatre at Big Sky High School. Lettering points/hours are only earned through play productions open to the Big Sky Student body.** (In other words, one cannot letter for class production work or work done in other theatres outside of Big Sky High School.)

Points/hours are achieved through participating in various activities in the theatre including such things as lead roles, stage management, thespian officer duties, etc. All points/hours are based on the recommendations from the International Thespian Honor Society. One point is equal to 10 hours of work in the theatre.

Points will be kept posted by the thespian officers and students will be notified if they have lettered before the end of the year award ceremony. Students may check their lettering points at any time.

Students may also earn the right to become members of the **International Thespian Society**. The International Thespian Society is an honorary society for high school theatre students and has troupes in more than 3,900 North American schools. ITS has inducted more than two million members since its founding in 1929. This society includes many famous actors such as Tom Hanks and Goldie Hawn.

The International Thespian Society is supported by the Educational Theatre Association.

The Educational Theatre Association and its International Thespian Society branch have been working since 1929 to honor excellence among students of theatre and support the work of theatre educators. Originally focused on theatre in high schools, EdTA has in recent years broadened the scope of its mission to embrace the concept of theatre as an instrument of lifelong learning and has expanded its membership to include students and teachers in middle schools, and college students preparing for careers in theatre education. You may find out more information about both of these organizations through their website at EdTA.org.

Drama/Thespian Honor Cords

Drama students who have become thespians who have a high GPA and have fulfilled the following requirements will be awarded Blue and Gold Thespian Honor cords to wear during the graduation ceremony. Requirements for these cords include the following:

- Thespian member in good standing i.e. dues paid and attending meetings. (please check to see that you have all your fees paid by June 1st)
- Earned Varsity Letter
- Earned 40 or more Thespian Points
- Held Thespian Office
- High G.P.A. Approved by Senior Councilor

Performance Endorsement Students may earn this endorsement by completing the requirements listed in the endorsement handbook found in the Big Sky High School counseling office.



BIG SKY HIGH SCHOOL

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School Policies

Cell Phone Policy: According to the Big Sky High Student Handbook, student possession and use of cellular phones on school grounds is a privilege. School authorities reserve the right to restrict the use of cell phones during school hours.

High school students may use cell phones on campus before school begins, during the lunch period, and after the instructional day. They must be kept out of sight and turned off during the instructional day including passing time between classes.

During performances, students are not allowed to have phones out and or be using the text options while sitting in the audience. All alarms, rings, etc should be in the silent mode.

Dress Code: According to the Big Sky High School Student Handbook, students are expected to wear clothing that does not distract from the learning environment.

The drama instructor will inform students of the specific dress code when students are traveling or going on special trips. It is expected that this dress code is followed.

ALL OTHER SCHOOL POLICIES APPLY. (See Student Handbook)

General Classroom Rules

- 1. Be on time. Be on time to class, rehearsals, and for evening show call time.**
Being on time includes being ready to go to work. Please be respectful of time, we work together and being late slows everyone down.
- 2. No hats or dark glasses are to be worn during class.**
- 3. All electronic devices one listens to must be stored away during class time. No students should have any headphones/ear buds plugged into their ears at any time.**
- 4. Cell phones must be kept in backpacks/ purses left by the door. Cell phones are not allowed to be out or in use during class.** (i.e. no texting during class time)
- 5. Handle only that equipment or material needed for an assignment. If you haven't been authorized to touch it, don't touch it. Simple as that.**
- 6. No gum, pop, coffee, food or candy is to be in the classroom or stage during class/rehearsal time.** Water bottles only. Please spit out your gum on your way in the room.
- 7. No writing on or defacing** seats, flats/ walls, curtains, furniture, props, costumes, etc.
- 8. You are responsible for completely cleaning up your work area.**

Each student enrolled in Drama department classes will have a detailed list of rules and expectations along with course requirements and guidelines in their classroom folders/binders.

**Take pride in our theatre and backstage areas. Treat them with respect.
It's all we have.**



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Please fill this out with your parent/guardians.
Students, please keep the rest of this handbook in your drama folder.
I may refer to it from time to time.

I/ We acknowledge that we read and understood the expectations, polices, and procedures specified in the Big Sky High School Drama Department Handbook. I/ We will comply with its contents. I/WE are also aware of that is my right to request a meeting at any time during the year to discuss the enforcement of these rules and policies or any other issues related to class.

DATE DUE: Please return this completed form on or before Semester 1- September 20th
Semester 2 - February 20th

Assignment value - worth 200pts

DRAMA STUDENTS PRINTED NAME

Student Signature and Date Parent(s)/Guardian Signature and Date

Emergency Information

1. Student's Name

2. Parent(s)/Guardian Name

3. Please put the number or email where you are most easily reached first.

Home Phone Cell Phone Work Phone

Email

4. Students Birth date Month Day Year

5. Medical Information: allergies, diabetic, etc...

Three horizontal lines for medical information.

In case of illness or serious injury, I give medical authorities permission to treat my son or daughter.

Date Signature

Printed name of Parent or Guardian



BIG SKY HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA PRODUCTION INFORMATION

High Schools generally have the least expensive tickets show tickets. The following schools theatres offer performances through out the year. Contact information has been included as well.

It is expected that students research and find performances in Missoula and the surrounding areas that they can view in order to complete the requirement to write critiques on productions.

Hellgate High School – Contact Information: Phone: 728-2402

Sentinel High School – Contact Information: Phone: 728-2403

Contact Both Schools for Full Semester Performance Schedules

Website: www.mcps.k12.mt.us

University of Montana School of Theatre and Dance

Contact Information: Box Office Phone: 243- 4581 11:30 to 5:30 M-F

Website: www.umtheatredance@umontana.edu

MCT Community Theatre

Contact Information: Box Office Phone: 728-7529

Website: www.mctonc.org

Christian Life Center

Contact Information: Office Phone: 542-0353

Website: www.CLC-Missoula.org

Produces the Easter Alive program during Easter Week

Free admission

Other Resources for students to find performances.

Missoulian Newspaper
University Theatre/ ASUM
Missoula web sites
Local Churches
Local Schools
Lively Times
Surrounding areas
Stevensville & Hamilton
Spokane Opera House

On the next four pages are notes on how to be a good audience member as well the live theatre note page and the critique format with the grading rubric.

All of this material will be needed to see theatre and critique theatre.

You as an Audience Member

Several stories about rude audiences have circulated throughout the theatre community. The first happened during a performance of *The Secret Garden* on Broadway. During a particularly tender moment in the performance, students in the audience were heard commenting on the stage action. Mandy Patinkin stopped the show, walked to the edge of the stage, and aimed his criticism at them, saying, “Shame on you... Shame on you.” The audience grew quiet and the actors began the show once more.

Another story is told of a performance of *Sunset Boulevard*, also in New York. When Glenn Close made her entrance, cameras began to flash throughout the house. Ms. Close also stopped the show, and commented to the audience that this was not a photo opportunity. Again the show continued without incident. Participating as an audience member in live theatre is a communal act in which the actors, technicians, and audience share in the performance. Because it is a living art, the audience needs to respond differently than it might to film or television. A noisy, insensitive audience can destroy the concentration of the performers and frustrate audience members who want to concentrate on the action. Here are a few guidelines to help you have a productive part in the audience.

1. *Do homework.* Learn as much as you can about the play beforehand. Read reviews, and even the script, if available. Talk to your teacher about what you can expect from the production. The more you prepare, the richer your experience will be.
2. *Dress appropriately.* Be aware that different theatre environments call for different degrees of dressing up or down. Dress up for professional houses that bring in national touring companies or for Broadway theatres. However, many regional theatres call for more casual dress. This is something to think about before you arrive and realize you don't fit the norm.
3. *Reserve seats in the advance.* People pay top dollar for seats that are close to the stage. If you can make plans ahead of time, you will obtain better seats. The orchestra seats are located on the ground level, and front mezzanine seats on the first balcony are prime. Seating arrangements vary greatly among theatres, and it pays to learn about seat location if you can.
4. *Arrive at the theatre early.* Arrive at least 15 minutes before curtain. Find your seat, read your program, and get comfortable before the show begins. Many theatres do not seat late arrivals until an appropriate time (sometimes 2-3 scenes into the show, or even at intermission). Plan ahead in order to enjoy the entire experience and not disturb others around you.
5. *Be considerate.* During the play be sensitive to the performers and considerate of the other audience members. Follow these basic rules:
 - a. When the lights dim, audience members should stop talking.
 - b. The overture is an introduction of music to come, not a time to make comment.
 - c. Don't talk, whisper, or sing along with the performers. This is disturbing to others sitting nearby.
 - d. Keep other distractions, such as crumpling wrappers or unzipping purses, to a minimum. Be sensitive to other members of the theatre community.
 - e. Stay until the end. Curtain calls are part of the experience—a time to share your positive energy with the performers. Audience members who leave before the calls are complete can destroy the final moments for others and appear thoughtless to actors who are very aware of the audience during their bows.

These guidelines are the “golden rules” of the theatre. Think about the kind of audience you would appreciate sitting with when you attend live theatre. Think about the kind of audience you would expect if you were performing on the stage. The people on the stage have worked very hard to bring you a memorable theatrical experience. Part of the responsibility rests with the audience—and begins with you.

Drama I Notes **REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR PLAY PROGRAM!**

Name of Play _____ Play Date (the night you saw it)_____

Colors of set/ How stage/auditorium was set up

Spectacle (What does element tell you about given circumstances = who, what, why, when, where)
Describe set/ or set pieces

Describe special props

Costumes of leads (describe use color etc.)

What is the lighting like?

What sound is used?

What was the make-up like or was there any special make- up or effects of any kind?

Character Hint (Selecting a main character = Protagonist/Antagonist will be easier)
Who is your favorite character (s) what do they do to convince you they are their characters.

Body Language-

Voice -

Objectives-

Tactics/Strategies taken to meet objectives

Theme = what do the playwright/director/designers want you to be thinking about after the show.
Notes on what happens during the play – from beg to end- Continue on back/another paper if needed.

Play Critiques:

In order to learn more about theatre, you need to SEE and EXPERIENCE THEATRE. I require that you see and review **two (2) plays** during the semester. If you have concerns about paying for tickets, please see me early in the semester and we will work something out. I will report performance times, dates, locations, and costs as I learn about them.

NOTE: Each critique is worth 200* points. FAILURE TO COMPLETE CRITIQUES WILL RESULT IN YOUR GRADE DROPPING SUBSTANTIALLY FOR EACH CRITIQUE YOU DO NOT TURN IN. PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS WILL CAUSE YOU TO FAIL THE CLASS.

HOW TO WRITE A PLAY CRITIQUE:

- Must be **typed** and **double-spaced** with **size 12 Times New Roman font**.
- Assume that I, as a reader of your critique, have not seen the show (many times I haven't!). Please be as specific and descriptive as possible.
- Back up all your opinions with valid reasons. Be objective and fair. Indicate positive points along with those you felt needed improvement.
- Avoid words like “really,” “great,” and “good.” When editing, delete these words.
- Approach a performance with an attitude of enjoying it. Be critical, but have fun!

*****FOLLOW THIS FORMAT*****

Your Critique Needs to Include:

Paragraph 1: Consider your experience before the play actually begins. Include a description of the lobby of the theatre: was there a display in the lobby that provided you with information about the play? The actors? Director? Designers? What essential information did you learn about the play before it began, and how did you learn it? Be sure to include basic information such as the name of the play, author, place of performance, date of performance, and the name of the director. What sort of stage was utilized during the performance? Choose from these: **proscenium** (audience on one side), **round** (audience on all sides), **thrust** (audience on three sides), **alley** (audience on two sides). Make sure to include 1-2 sentences summarizing the **plot** of the play.

Paragraph 2: A) Actors use their **bodies** and their **voices** to create characters. They **color** their words by making different vocal choices; that is, to show the audience the proper emotional content of their lines using differing volumes, pace of speech, and kinds of articulation. Select one actor and describe, in as much detail as you can, exactly how they colored their dialogue. Were their coloring **choices** successful? Why or why not? You may include a personal response to the actor's vocal performance. B) Actors also use their **bodies** to create characters. Select another actor and discuss the ways he or she moved: what gestures did they use? Different kinds of movement? Facial expressions? Did they move with intention? How do you know?

Paragraph 3: **Characters** in plays pursue **objectives**, or goals. Select a character and describe their main objective. What does this character want most of all? How do they go about getting it? Describe two **tactics** or **strategies** this person uses to achieve their objective. Simply, what do they **do** to get what they want? Think about voice, movement, action, etc. (Hint: selecting a main character or **protagonist/antagonist** will make writing about objectives easier.)

Paragraph 4: Choose one of the design elements of **spectacle** to discuss: the lights, the costumes, the sets, the makeup, or the props. How does this particular design element contribute to the mood of the performance? What does this element tell you about the given circumstances of the story – who, what, where, when, why?

Paragraph 5: To conclude, discuss the “**big idea**” or over-arching theme you can pick out from the play after the performance is over. How do you know? (Provide evidence to support your argument!) Ask yourself: what do the playwright/director/designers want me to come away from the show thinking about?

*Play critiques are double weighted

NAME: _____

Play Critique: 1 / 2

Attending the performance: _____/75

Paragraph 1: Experience before the play begins.

- Description of lobby
- Essential information learned
- Basic play information (name of play, author, place of performance, date of performance, and name of director)
- Type of stage
- 1-2 sentences summarizing the plot of the play

_____/25

Paragraph 2: Actor vocal choices / physical choices

- Description of actor's coloring
- Defense of writer's opinion re: actor's vocal choice
- Description of gestures
- Description of movements
- Writer's defense of opinion re: moving with intention (including an answer to "How do you know?")

_____/25

Paragraph 3: Discussion of objectives/tactics/strategies

- Description of two tactics/strategies

_____/25

Paragraph 4: Elements of design/spectacle

- Description of lights, costumes, sets, makeup, or props
- Description of how does this particular design element contribute to the mood of the performance
- Description of what this element tells about the play's given circumstances

_____/25

Paragraph 5: Big idea/theme

- Discussion of "big idea" or over-arching theme
- Defense ("How do you know?")

_____/25

TOTAL: _____/200

25: Standard/proficient. Contains all required information. Strength and clarity in writing.

20: Below the standard but approaching proficiency. Contains most required information.

18: Problematic work, proficient in some areas. Missing significant amounts of required information.

15: Showing partial development of skills, needs work on most areas. Missing most required information.

12: Does not meet the standard, shows little to no development of skills.