

How to Stage a Scene or Duet

1) Exchange contact info with your partner,
Choose your Scene / Song & Copy Your Scene / Song. (75 points)

2) Read / Sing the Scene (and Lyrics) outloud

After reading your Scene out loud a few times, write a 5-6 sentence journal entry and then submit that entry for credit. (50 points)

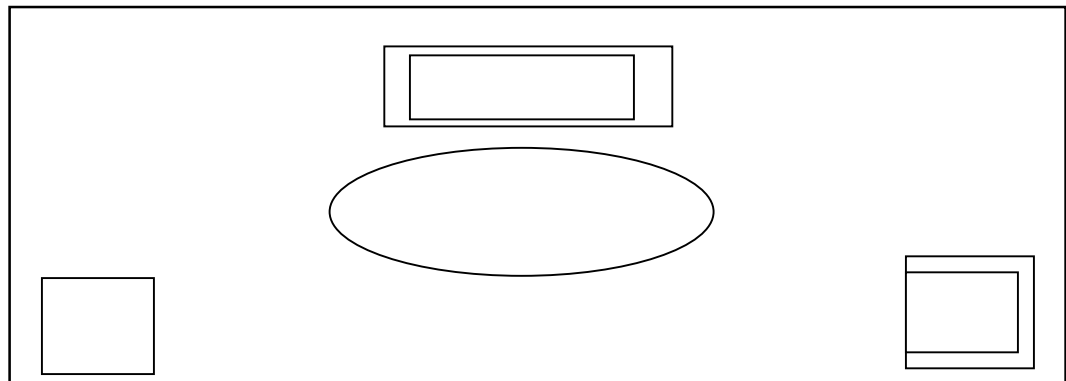
3) Establish your Character's Objectives

Decide how your character wants to affect the other character. Do you want to charm them, offend them, destroy them? What your character wants is called an **objective**. Choose a strong objective that you can actually accomplish within the scene.

To complete this step, you must submit a single sentence objective statement.

EXAMPLE: In the play, *insert title*, my character, *insert character's name*, **wants** to...
(50 points)

4) Create a Ground Plan (a bird's eye view of what is on stage)



Audience

To complete this step, each actor must submit a ground plan – they should be identical.
(50 points)

5) Block the Scene / Song

In Victorian times, directors would plan out the placement of stage actors in advance, using small **blocks** of wood on toy stages. Movement on stage is still called "blocking." Most scripts describe some of the blocking used on Broadway, which you can follow to whatever extent you find useful. Some original blocking is crucial to the effectiveness of a scene, so give those printed stage directions serious consideration but know that they don't always work.

Establish your movement – notate your blocking in your script

CHARLEY: Hi Linus. *XDL*

LINUS: Hi Charley Brown.

CHARLEY: Can I have your blanket? *reach twd* L

LINUS: No. *XDR*

Figure out where you are and where you have to go during the scene. Your aim is to create movement that will help the audience to understand the story. Each three dimensional "stage picture" must help tell the story. Audiences hate visual monotony so never let two people sit at the same time. Keep the stage picture alive with meaningful movement and different physical arrangements of characters.

These step will take several class periods to complete.

Complete a journal entry for every blocking rehearsal. (50 points per entry)

6) Rehearse & Memorize the Scene / Song

Use a highlighter to make your lines jump off the page.

Memorization is the actor's homework.

Learn your lines. Practice makes perfect. The more you practice your lines out loud, the quicker you will learn them. When studying your lines at home, say the words out loud. Have a friend run your lines with you when you're not in rehearsal.

Songs: Singing memorization is just as important as dialogue. Lyrics can be tricky. Study and go over them as much as possible. Sing in the mirror so you can see what you look like while singing, this helps correct any mistakes you may or may not have made.

Dancing is hard. You must have the patience and time to work at it everyday. Take your time and learn the steps the right way first so you do not have to go back and slow everyone else down.

(100 points)

7) 1st Up: Perform the Scene / Song for the first time

This may be scary for you. But know that everyone is a little scared. Channel your nerves into a focused direction.

Think about your objective before you enter the scene. Pursue your objective during the performance.

Have someone you trust sit in front of the stage with your script. They will be your prompter. If you forget a line, stay in the moment and just call "line" and the prompter will give you your line while you stay in character.

(100 points)

8) Feedback / Notes

You will be given notes from your teacher and the peer tutor and from a few of your classmates.

Listen to those notes and write them down so they make sense to you.

Complete a 5-6 sentence journal entry for this step. (50 points)

9) Rehearse & Polish Scene / Song

These step may take a couple of class periods to complete.

You must complete a journal entry for every polishing rehearsal. (50 points per entry)

10) 2nd Up: Perform Scene / Song for the final time & earn a grade!

Bring everything together into a final performance.

You will be graded individually on how well you complete the notes that were given to.

(200 points)

Tips

- If you mess up a line or a move keep going.
When you stop or freeze up is when the audience notices something is not right.
The audience doesn't know your lines and will only know you've messed up if you "tell" them.
- Speak loudly and clearly so that the people in the last row of the theatre can hear you.
- "Love the art in yourself, not yourself in the art".
- Keep a positive attitude but do not be over-confident.
- Have lots and lots of energy. Own your character. Own your lines.
- Never underestimate your partner but also never rely on them to do your work for you.
- Practice, practice, practice