

**Teacher: Shannon Paulgaard**

**Subject/Grade:**

**Unit/Topic: Drama Orientation Pt. 1**

**Date/Time: 1/14/16 1:00pm**

**Related GLO's and SLO's:**

Students will be able to...

- Understand and respond to classroom rules, procedures, and routines.
- Demonstrate a responsible attitude toward physical and emotional safety and comfort of self and others.
- Demonstrate respect for equipment, resources and facilities.
- Respond appropriately to established control signals.
- Participate positively in classroom activities.
- Display appropriate classroom and audience behavior.

**Background Information:** This is the first Jr High Drama class in either Grade 7 or a combined Grade 7-9 class. The students should each have a scribbler marked for "Drama" to use for journaling that they will have bought to class.

**Objective (What will the student's do?):**

Students will discuss and recognize the different drama classroom rules and regulations. They will also execute different dramatic elements while showcasing their understanding of safety in the classroom as well as their appreciation and respect for one another.

**Assessment (How will you know the students have reached the objective?):**

Observation and discussion throughout.

Exit Slip/Journal Entry: 1-1-1-1

- 1 thing you learned...
- 1 thing you're excited for...
- 1 thing you're nervous about...
- 1 question you have...

### **Materials and Equipment:**

- Large pieces of paper/giant Post-It notes and markers for students to write “Classroom Rules” in small groups.
- Pieces of yarn varying in length for our introduction game called “Strings”. There should be one for each student plus the teacher.
- A nerf ball/yarn ball of some sort.
- Drama classroom, everything cleared so that there is space to move around.
- Each of the students will need Drama scribblers with some sort of writing utensil.
  - o A container to hold their journals in the classroom.

### **Learning Resources Consulted:**

- Blooms Taxonomy for Objectives.
- *Teacher Resource Manual DRAMA Junior High School*. 1989 Alberta Education.

### **Procedure: *Teacher’s Script in Italics***

#### **Introduction (15 minutes)**

Welcome the students to class and get everyone to sit in a circle in the center of the room. The students might all know each other, but they might not know a lot about each other.

*Hello everyone and welcome to drama! We’re going to have a fun term together. I want to start by talking about a routine that I would like us to develop together. After today we will start each class in a circle like this. We will quickly gather ourselves and then do a warm up activity together before we move on to whatever project or activity we are working on for the day. We will finish every class back in the circle to debrief and talk about why we did what we did during class, have discussions, and sometimes write in our drama journals. The more we follow this routine, the more effective and efficient our time together will be! In this class we will be learning about movement and speech elements, improvisation and acting, theatre studies and theatre history, and lastly, technical theatre. By the end of the class you will have a wide range of knowledge about theatre and it’s elements.*

*We’re going to start of our first class with a quick introduction game. It’ll help me to get to know all of you better, but it will also help you to get to know each other better as well.*

Get all of the kids to take one piece of string as you hand a bundle of them around the circle. They will all get different lengths. Some will be long, others short. Get everyone to stand up.

*Now we will play a game called "String". In our circle we will go around one at a time and introduce and talk about ourselves. As you talk, you need to wrap your string around your hand. The longer your string, the longer you have to talk. Once you're string comes to an end, so does your turn. You have to say your name, but you can talk about anything about yourself, your likes, dislikes, family, future hopes, your favorite thing about drama coming into this class.*

Get everyone to go around and do this activity.

### **Body (20 minutes)**

Get the students to put their strings behind them so that they will not be tempted to play with them.

*Today we're doing an orientation to this drama class. It's going to be our starting point for the rest of the term. The first and most important thing to do in any drama class is to establish rules that we will all agree to follow to make sure that everyone has a safe and fun time in this class. I want to hear all of your opinions and give you all input as to what our classroom rules will be. Once I see yours, I will add my own as well.*

Get the students to number off from 1-6 and get one person from each group to take a piece of paper and markers for their group. Get them to spread out in the room and come up with three rules together that they would like to put in place.

*Make sure to keep in mind not only physical safety, but also emotional safety.*

Give them 7 minutes to do this and then go around the room for everyone to share their rules. As each group presents, get them to hang their paper on the wall somewhere in the room. Have a blank piece of paper and write these rules on it as well (if no one comes up with them):

1. The creative choices that are made in this room stay in this room. No one should be talking to people outside of this class about what a certain person did in class that day/week.
2. Everyone's creative choices are valid!

3. If you don't feel a bit awkward, you're doing it wrong. It's important to put yourself out there and commit to every action you make, even if you feel "silly".
4. We always move safely through the room and respect the personal space of others.

*Now, we're going to play a game together. It will help us to continue to get to know each other. I want you to make sure you are keeping all of our rules in mind while we play.*

Get everyone to come back and stand in a circle.

*We're going to play a game called Labyrinth. Everyone needs to raise his or her right hand. I will call someone's name and they will put their hand down. They will call someone new, who will put their hand down and so on. I have to be called last. Remember who called you and who you called, because we will do this again in the same order.*

Do this 3-4 times to get them used to the rhythm.

*Next we are going to add another level. We're going to do the same thing, but we're going to throw this ball around. Again, remember your order and I have to be last.*

Do this 3-4 times to get them used to the rhythm. If they are ready, have them combine levels.

*Now we're going to combine levels. We'll do a few rounds of just name calling, but then I will add the ball in and see how long we can keep it going. Make sure you're paying attention to both levels!*

### **Closure (5 minutes)**

Get the students to all get out their journals and a writing utensil to write an "exit slip" entry.

Get them to write one thing they learned, one thing they're excited for, one thing they're nervous about, and one question they may have. When they're done they can put their journals back in the container and get ready for dismissal.

**Sponge Activities:** If there is time left, the students can play another round of Labyrinth with a new order.

**Reflection:**

**Evaluation:**

**What would you do differently to improve this lesson for next time?**

**What went well that you should build on?**

***\*\* In the next orientation lessons we will start with a warm up and then do simple games and activities to give the students a sample of each major area the class will focus on through the term. This will probably take another two classes.\*\****