English 9 Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

“Romeo and Juliet” Final Performance!

Your assignment is to work with your acting company to **interpret**, **rehearse**, and **perform** a scene from “The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet.” In addition to the performance, each member of your acting company will create either a **Director’s Notebook** or an **Actor’s Notebook** to accompany the scene; these will be combined into one **Staging Notebook** for each group.

**Planning**

1. Discuss how your acting company will integrate **features of an effective dramatic performance** features into your performance.
2. At this point, you should be familiar with the scene your acting company selected, and you probably have at least a few of your lines memorized. For your part, plan appropriate visual and vocal delivery.
3. Remember, the goal is to interpret the scene. The acting company’s success depends on how well members work together to create a polished and interesting performance.
4. The director will guide the acting company, making lists of props, costume pieces, set design features, lighting, and background music to enhance the performance.
5. Rehearse! Rehearse your scene several times. Pay attention to your positions on “stage,” the pacing of your speeches, and the volume at which you speak. Consult the grading rubric to help guide your rehearsals.

**Performing!**

1. Perform your scene on **Friday, May 27th**. The director will introduce the scene and the actors. Following the performance, the director will explain the decisions and interpretation.
2. You will also need to write a short reflection of your group’s performance as well as the performances of the other acting companies.

**Director’s Notebook**

In preparation for your acting company’s performance of a scene from the play, you will create a staging notebook. Completing each item listed below will help you understand the scene and your responsibilities in the scene.

1. **Interpretation**: Write a paragraph describing the interpretation you have chosen for your scene. Provide textual evidence to explain the reasoning and plan for the theatrical elements that will create your interpretation.
2. **Text**: Type or paste a copy of your scene on white paper. Leave plenty of room in the margins to take notes about the visual and vocal delivery by each character. Actors will take notes about their own characters, based on the director’s guidance, but the director must have notes about all the characters.
3. **Diagram of Set**: You will need to draw the set, so be sure to know what the “stage” will be. Include a sketch of the set from the audience’s perspective, as well as an aerial view.
4. **Visuals, Lighting, Sound, Props**: Decide how you will convey setting and create each element (projection, backdrop, poster, etc.).Create a plan for lighting and sound that will enhance your acting company’s performance. Also, list any sound effects or music that your group will use. For both lighting and sound, include an explanation as to why you think these choices are appropriate for your scene. Make a list of props for your scene and where you will get them.
5. **Introduction**: Write an introduction that provides context (what happened prior to your scene) and previews the content of the scene you will perform. You will present this introduction before your acting company performs.
6. **Meeting Log**: After every work session, you will be responsible for writing a dated log that records how the meeting went. Some questions you might answer in your log include:
   1. What did the group accomplish?
   2. What obstacles were identified?
   3. What needs to be done before and at the next meeting?
7. **Organization**: Assemble the Actor’s Notebook sheets for each actor in your company and add these to your notebook to create one binder, or **Staging Notebook**, for your group! This is also due on Friday, May 27th.

**Actor’s Notebook**

To help prepare for your performance of a scene from the play, you will need to complete several items

1. **Interpretation**: Write a paragraph describing the interpretation you have chosen for your character. Provide textual evidence to explain the reasoning and plan for the theatrical elements that will create your interpretation.
2. **Text**: Type or paste a copy of your scene on white paper. Highlight your own lines and paraphrase them to help you understand them. Write down everything you and your director decide you should do to convey your interpretation of your character.
3. **Costume**! You will need to decide on an appropriate costume for your character. Sketch, photograph, cut out of a magazine, or print an online image of both your ideal costume and your real costume. Add enough detail so that I know what you have in mind.
4. **Character Analysis**: Create a visual representation of your character’s thoughts, desires, actions, and obstacles. Focus on your scene, but you can include evidence from other parts of the play.

**Reflection**

After your performance, you will write a one-two page reflective essay by responding to these questions:

* How did different acting companies use theatrical elements to enhance their performance in memorable ways? Use specific examples to support your claims about which companies were most successful.
* What challenges did your group face? Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the performance including insightful commentary about each group member.
* How did performing a scene help you understand or appreciate the play?

**Grading Rubric**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Scoring Criteria | **Exemplary** | **Proficient** | **Emerging** | **Incomplete** |
| **Ideas**  **10 points** | The performance:  -represents an insightful interpretation of the scene and clearly communicates the intended effect to the audience  -includes a reflection that represents the creative thinking of the entire acting company, with insightful commentary on the challenges and the final performance. | The performance:  -represents a clear interpretation of the scene and communicates it effectively to the audience  -includes a reflection on the process of preparing for and performing the scene, including commentary on challenges faced and an evaluation of the final performance. | The performance:  -shows an attempt to interpret the scene  -may not clearly communicate the scene to the audience  -includes a reflection that summarizes the process rather than the thinking behind the interpretation and the performance. | The performance:  -is not coherent and does not clearly communicate the scene to the audience  -includes a reflection that is minimal and simply lists the steps in the process; it does not reflect the thinking of the group or the effect of the performance |
| **Structure**  **10 points** | The staging notebook is detailed and shows evidence of a high degree of collaboration.  The interpretive performance shows a high degree of planning for visual and vocal delivery. | The staging notebook contains all required entries in a clearly organized format.  An effective performance communicates planning for visual elements and rehearsal for vocal delivery. | The staging notebook does not contain all required entries and may be poorly organized.  The performance shows some planning for visual elements and rehearsal for vocal delivery. | The staging notebook contains few if any of the required entries.  The performance shows a lack of planning for visual elements and rehearsal for vocal delivery. |
| **Use of Language**  **10 points** | The performance:  -demonstrates a creative use of diction to communicate the scene  -includes a thorough script (in staging notebook) with annotations for effective delivery of lines. | The performance:  -includes appropriate and effective vocal and visual delivery of dialogue  -includes a script (in staging notebook) annotated for appropriate delivery of lines. | The performance:  -attempts the use of appropriate dialogue to communicate the scene  -includes some elements of a script (in staging notebook) annotated for delivery of lines. | The performance:  -includes little evidence of an attempt to craft appropriate dialogue for the scene  -may not include a script (in staging notebook) or annotations for delivery of lines. |

***This assignment is worth up to 30 “essay” points!***