

DOWNEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Middle School Course Outline

Course Title: Drama/Speech I (*One Semester*)
Grade Level: 7, 8
Prerequisites: Students reading at or above grade level

Course Description:

This course will combine elements of drama and speech. It will include role playing, character interpretation, monologues, improvisational acting, pantomime, storytelling, and basic terminology. Drama/Speech will also include instruction in planning and writing speeches, presentation, and competition of speeches. Such approaches in speech and drama may include persuasion, information, memorization, choral readings, oral interpretation, Readers' Theater, and demonstrations.

Student Performance Objectives for this Course:

Students will

1. perform an assigned dramatic role, exhibiting clarity of characterization, voice, and movement.
2. develop both the manuscript of a speech and an impromptu speech by using sound principles of organization, including clear beginning, middle, and end statements.
3. research, write, and deliver a variety of speeches -- exhibiting clarity of voice, gesture, and purpose.
4. display acting and speaking skills in a variety of situations, including each of the following - pantomime, improvisation, monologue, perform a scene from a published play.
5. demonstrate their knowledge of basic theatre terminology including acting, arias, types of theatre and blocking terms.

Speech and Drama - continued

Instructional Strategies

Large and small group discussion incorporating Bloom's Taxonomy

- a. Knowledge - recalling previously learned information
- b. Comprehension - grasping the meaning of the material
- c. Application - applying the learned material to new and concrete situations
- d. Analysis - breaking down the material into its component parts
- e. Synthesis - putting the parts together to form a new whole
- f. Evaluation - judging the value of the material for a given purpose

Group and individualized instruction

Lecture

Written and oral assignments

Group and individual projects

Audio-visual aids

Teacher and student critique

Instructional Units

Unit I: Analysis and practice of basic stage movement

Vocal delivery

Staging ("blocking")

Study and memorization of a dramatic role

Performance of role

Critique of performance

Unit II: Analysis and practice of vocal delivery

Speech research

Speech writing

Speech presentation

Critique of performance

Speech and Drama - continued

Evaluation

Student progress will be evaluated by:

- Completion and quality of assignments
- Attendance
- Class participation
- Tests/quizzes
- Homework
- Teacher observation
- Teacher evaluation
- Student performance

Materials and Resources

Rehearsal - Miriam A. Franklin. Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey

The Stage and the School - Katherine Anne Ommanney, McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc.

Sample works of dramatic literature available in current English department texts.

57 Original Auditions for Actors, Eddie Lawrence, Meriwether Publishing Ltd., Box 7710
Colorado Springs, CO 80933

Speaking By Doing, Williams Buys, Thomas Sill, Roy Beck, National Textbook Co.,
Lincolnwood, Illinois

Creative Communication, Fran Averett Tanner, Clark Publishing Co., c/o Caxton Printers, Ltd.,
P.O. Box 700, Caldwell, Idaho 83605

Improvisation for the Theater, Viola Spolin, Northwestern University Press, 1735 Benson Ave.,
Evanston, Illinois 60201