

DOWNEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Middle School Course Outline

**Course Title:** Drama/Speech 2 (*One Semester*)  
**Grade Level:** 7, 8  
**Prerequisites:** Completion of Drama/Speech 1 course

**Course Description:**

This course will further develop the skills the students acquired in Drama/Speech 1. It will explore the different areas of theater including the history, genres, technical aspects, and performance skills, such as improvisation and scene development. Students will also take prerequisite speech skills learned in Drama/Speech 1 and extend them into well-developed debates.

**Student Performance Objectives for this Course:**

Students will

1. participate in script development which includes character development, and all aspects of the plot line.
2. develop character based improvisation and participate in various forms of improvisation.
3. understand the different trends in theater throughout World and American history including Ancient Greek and Roman, Renaissance, and Kabuki.
4. write and develop research based debates that will be presented in collaborative groups.
5. learn the effectiveness of peer evaluation and student driven critiques, as well as self-reflection and analysis.
6. further develop various technical aspects of the theatre which will include stage make-up, costume design, set construction, stage management, stage blocking, and publicity.

## **Drama/Speech 2 - continued**

### **Instructional Strategies**

Group and individualized instruction  
Lecture  
Written and oral assignments  
Group and individual projects  
Audio visual aids  
Teacher and student critiques  
Perform for an evening audience

### **Instructional Units**

Weeks	Unit
2	Warm-up improvisational games
3	Perform an original pantomime in small groups
4	Original written project which is performed
2	Study and practice of a stage craft project
4	Film and critique a performed assignment
3	Written analysis and rehearsal of a scene from a published play
18	Audition, rehearsal, and performance of a main stage production performed in the evening

### **Evaluation**

Student progress will be evaluated by:

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

## **Drama/Speech 2 - continued**

### **Materials and Resources**

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

Modern Acting: A Manual, Sophie Rosenstein

Respect for Acting

Instant Acting, Jerry Whelan

Here's How: A Basic Stagecraft Book, Herbert V. Hake

Audience Participation, Brian Way