

# Dramalogue

**Objective:** To create a short “moment” of acting that communicates a specific emotion or feeling to an audience. Working as a director, a student will create this emotional “moment” of acting by controlling all of the external elements that create mood for actors in the scene. These external elements include concept, script, casting, staging/blocking, costumes, props, lights, & sound. Students will be able to choose some of their cast/crew, but will also be assigned four students that they must use in their scene.

**What is a dramalogue?** The term dramalogue was created by Phil Kinen. The first part of the word is drama. According to Merriam Webster Dictionary, drama means a piece of writing that tells a story and is performed on a stage. “Logue” comes from monologue. This is a speech in a play by one actor. Mr. Kinen combined these terms to mean a short dramatic moment that is created by an actor as a director to learn about the importance of external elements on acting. A dramalogue is a 1 to 3 minute “drama” or very short scene that is created, written, directed, and produced by a student in class. We work on creating this project in class for several weeks. Students develop an idea they feel passionate about. This idea is turned into a short dramatic script and directed in class. The script must incorporate a theme or strong dramatic mood. Students are given twenty minutes to direct their play in class. No outside of class rehearsal time is part of this assignment. Dramalogues must be appropriate for school in terms of content and language. *The dramalogues may not be about suicide, drugs or alcohol, sex or related to personal bodily functions, or about religion.* The student who creates the dramalogue may not be an actor in their own dramalogue, as they will be directing it. The following are the requirements for the dramalogue.

1. **Idea/Concept.** You must come up with an idea for your dramalogue. This must include an explanation of what you think this will look like when you stage it. This is not a script, but rather a paper about your idea. It should be at least a page long.
2. **Rough Draft and Script.** You must create a script that includes characters and actions that communicate the theme of your dramalogue. It must use place, time, and atmosphere to create an environment that reveals a specific psychological state. The script must include characters with dialogue or stage directions that motivates action and creates mood. You need to have a rough draft of your script that is proofed by 3 people. These 3 people need to sign your rubric. One of the proof readers must be a parent, teacher, or guardian. The final script must be typed. It needs to be in proper script format.
3. **Create a director’s notebook.** This will include all of the dramatic elements needed for producing your dramalogue. This notebook will include the following things:
  - a. The idea for your dramalogue.
  - b. The rough draft of your dramalogue.
  - c. The final copy of your dramalogue.
  - d. A highlighted script with notes and directions for everyone in your dramalogue.
  - e. A cast and crew list.
  - f. Prop list, costume list, floor plan, lighting plan, and sound cues.
  - g. Blocking/staging for your dramalogue.
  - h. The detailed plan of what to do when you direct.
4. **List of Technical needs.** You need to make a list of all the technical needs for your dramalogue. These could include the following:
  - a. Light cues / needs
  - b. Sound cues / needs
    - i. Specific CD or song
    - ii. I-pod / MP3 player
    - iii. CD player
    - iv. Microphones
  - c. Costumes
  - d. Props
  - e. Specific scenery; i.e. chair, desk, block/cube, platform, placement of curtains.
5. **Create a detailed plan of what you will need when you direct.** A great way to do this is to make an outline. You should plan out your twenty minutes of rehearsal as well as you can. Think about handing out scripts, rehearsing your cast, working with your technicians, running your dramalogue, and giving notes or fixing problems. *This plan is a key to your success with this project.*
6. **Highlighted copies of script for entire cast/crew.** You need to have a copy of your script for every person in your cast and crew. Each script needs to have the lines and/or stage directions highlighted for each cast/crew member. Notes should be written on each script to help the technicians.
7. **Cast / Crew list.** You need to make a list of the people in class that will play each role and the people who will be your crew. Make sure you pick people to assist you with the directing and the tech while you work with the other group. You also should assign people to set up your stage for you. You will need to use the actor(s) and technician(s) that have been assigned to you. All other casting/crew decisions are yours.
8. **Provide all of the needs for your performance.** You will need to bring in a pre-recorded sound (song or effect). You also need to provide your own costumes, props, or essential scenery. These things should be listed in your technical needs.
9. **Blocking/Staging.** You must have a diagram of the blocking your dramalogue that is on your floor plan. There should be one diagram for each page of your script.
10. **Direct your dramalogue.** Effectively collaborates by coordinating the work of all staff, designers, and performers to create a unified production.
11. **Rehearse.** You must organize/direct your dramalogue in less than 20 minutes.
12. **Performance.** The performance must be at least a minute but cannot be longer than 3 minutes.
13. **Strike.** You must be able to completely strike your dramalogue in less than 5 minutes.

