

Writing an Original Short Scene

Name: _____ Date: _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

The student will write and format an original one-minute, two-character dialogue scene with a clear conflict.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Lined paper or notebook
- pencil
- pen
- eraser

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Brainstorm three possible conflicts between two characters (e.g., siblings arguing over a phone, two friends disagreeing about a plan) and circle your favorite.
2. List your two characters' names and, in one sentence each, what each character wants in the scene.
3. Write the scene in proper script format (character name in caps, colon, dialogue line, stage directions in parentheses) -- aim for 12-20 lines total.
4. Read the scene aloud yourself, timing it with a clock or phone, and revise any lines that feel unnatural or make the scene run longer than about 60-90 seconds.
5. Add at least two stage directions showing physical action or emotion at key moments in the scene.

QUESTIONS

1. What conflict did you choose for your scene, and what does each character want?
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2. How long did your scene run when you timed it, and what did you cut or add to fit the target time?
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3. Where did you add stage directions, and what do they add to the scene?
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4. Does your scene reach a resolution, or does it end on an unresolved conflict? Why did you choose that ending?
