



Icebreaker Activities for the First Day of Class

Don Correll's Drama 101

Reading: *The Enjoyment of Theatre*. Chapter One "Performance and Art", Chapter Two "The Performing Audience: Three Roles"
The Grapes of Wrath

Texts: *The Enjoyment of Theatre*
Crimes of the Heart
The Grapes of Wrath
The Unexpected Guest

Handouts: Syllabus

Introductions and Syllabus

1. Turn chairs so in a circle.
2. Into groups of three.
3. Each person takes notes on the person to your right.
4. Find out the person's name, something interesting about them, why going to college, plans for the future.

Notebook 1: Information on fellow student.

Introductions

1. First group, as person introduced stand up for all to see.
2. Continue until all have done it.
3. When finished give my education and experience.

Notebooks

1. Need to buy the *Intro to Theatre Notebook* for taking required notes during the class.
2. If don't have one today paste in today's entries.
3. Put name inside front cover.
4. Use only the right-hand page.
5. Put number in box in upper right hand corner.
6. Read off seminar group assignments, make sure make note of it in the notebook.

Syllabus

1. Stay in small groups. Hand out syllabus.
2. Groups read and among selves attempt to answer each other's questions.
3. Draw a line in notebook and write down all questions that the group still has about the syllabus.

Notebook 1: Syllabus questions.

4. Start with one group and allow the large groups to answer questions.
5. As the instructor only answer a question if large group cannot answer the question.
6. Explain the texts and plays for the quarter.
7. Ask what is plagiarism and cheating and individuals provide answers.
8. Discuss as a group the implications of and the results that can ensue if caught doing either.

Definition Art

1. Same groups.
2. As a group come up with a definition of art. Insure that each person in the group has input.

Notebook 1: Group definition of art

3. Each group writes definition on the white board.
4. Looking at the definitions see what is common in each definition.
5. Assign a student to go to board and do the circling of commonalities as they are discussed.
6. Each commonality among groups uses a different color.
7. Coach through the entire process and give lead in for discussion of that common element.
8. Make connections to the definitions as define art:
 - a. Skill – proficiency or creativity.
 - b. Beauty – nature of something expressed in a pleasing manner.
 - c. Meaning – interpretation or judgment on human existence from the viewpoint of the creator of the work.

9. Theatre or any art that violates the above can be dangerous to create.
10. Only humans can create art, "Art is a lie that enables us to realize the truth," Picasso.
11. Art implies some sort of order to life by imposing order upon it.
12. This structure develops when we distinguish or impose patterns in our physical, emotional, psychological, social and spiritual realities. The patterns are needed for art to exist.
13. In order for art to work it must cause a reaction in the viewer.

Notebook 1: Definition of art

14. One person from each group reports out to class.
15. Write significant ideas on board as they are presented.
16. Discussion on art as a means of communicating, educating and challenging.
17. Politics of art philosophical reason the artist does what he or she does because of fundamental views of life.

Definition Theatre

1. Same groups come up with definition of theatre.
2. Draw line in notebook and write definition.

Notebook 1: Definitions of theatre

3. One person from group write definitions on the board.
4. Look for commonalities in the definitions.
5. Starting with one of the definitions relate how the various elements of theatre need the audience, people and not only entertains but also can be thought provoking.