BRING ON THE DRAMA: Teaching Playwrighting

Resources

Playwriting Brief & Brilliant by Julie Jensen

Writing Your First Play by Roger Hall

Remember

1. Each item on the rubric has potential to decrease creativity
2. Plays are a work of art
3. This makes grading challenging
4. Collaboration must be managed
5. Create clear expectations for set
6. Start small. Consider assigning monologues and short scenes before assigning a play
7. Use playwriting exercises with caution – try them yourself first before assigning
8. Playwright should communicate an issue
9. Avoid grading for proper use of language --- dialogue must represent how characters really speak to be effective
10. If grading for language is required, consider alternate assignments. Students could write about:
11. The process of creating a play
12. The collaboration process
13. Feedback for classmate’s plays
14. The issue that was important to them in creating their play and how the play represented that issue
15. Feedback
16. Before offering feedback, ask the playwright what she was trying to accomplish
17. Before making suggestion, ask clarifying questions. Such as: What emotions were you expecting from this scene? What did you hope to accomplish with (character line / action)?
18. Nurture young talent with the hope that they may go on to write many more plays after learning from your class

Studies

<http://www.aate.com/benefits-of-theatre-ed>