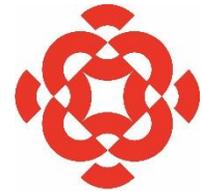


LENS Project

A/B Scenes

<i>Ages</i>	All Ages, some reading required
<i>LENS Skill</i>	Empathy
<i>Why?</i>	When I explore another person's experience and perspective, I can build connections and develop empathy for others.
<i>Materials</i>	A/B Scene scripts (see Directions) Ideas for related roles (see Directions or brainstorm your own)



**TACOMA
ARTS LIVE**



Summary

In this activity, participants will practice their acting skills to build **Empathy** by exploring a character and the character's relationship to another person using basic dialogue. Depending on the characters and their relationship, the basic dialogue can be "painted" with tone of voice, movement and acting choices to explore how each person feels and relates to one another in the scenario.

Directions

1.) **Select Related Roles**

Begin by selecting a pair of related roles to explore. You could choose from the list below, or make your own list and choose one.

Possible Related Roles:

- *teacher/student*
- *athlete/coach*
- *friends after a disagreement*
- *a student and a brand new student in class*
- *store clerk/customer*
- *co-workers in a factory*
- *or make up your own!*



2.) **Develop Characters/Relationship/Scenario**

With your partner, discuss who these characters are and how they relate to each other, as well as decide on a scenario where they would interact.

- What sort of relationship do they have? Is it strained, friendly, wary, or professional?
- What is the status of the characters (a teacher/coach/boss will likely have higher status than a student/athlete/worker)?
- What does each character want from the other or from the scenario?
- How does each character feel about what is happening?

3.) Understand the Script

Decide as a partner group, which script best suits your characters, relationship, and scenario. Decide which character is A and which one is B. Take some time to make sure each person can read and speak their lines.

To exercise Empathy through acting skills:

- Identify 1 or 2 emotions your character feels in your scenario and how you can show those emotions.
- Practice how you would say each line and how your voice (tone) communicates how your character feels.
- Determine how your body posture reflects the situation and how your character feels.

<p><u>Scene Option 1:</u></p> <p>A: Hi.</p> <p>B: Hi...it's been a long time.</p> <p>A: Yeah. I know.</p> <p>B: How are you?</p> <p>A: Fine. How are you?</p> <p>B: Okay. What do you want to do now?</p> <p>A: I don't know. Any ideas?</p> <p>B: Hum...sure. (action)</p> <p>A: How long will this take?</p> <p>B: Depends.</p> <p>A: Okay.</p> <p>(continue action)</p> <p>A: Oh. (pause) Well, nice to see you.</p> <p>B: Yeah, you too. Want to get some food?</p> <p>(A shrugs. They exit.)</p>	<p><u>Scene Option 2:</u></p> <p>A: Hi!</p> <p>B: Hello.</p> <p>A: What did you do last night?</p> <p>B: Oh, not much. How about you?</p> <p>A: Oh, watched a little T.V.</p> <p>B: Anything good?</p> <p>A: Well, no. Not really.</p> <p>B: See you later.</p> <p>A: OK.</p>
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4.) Rehearse and Perform

Take some time for individual practice to get comfortable with the lines and character choices, and then practice together. You could even rehearse your lines in front of a mirror to practice using different facial expressions. If there is more than one group, perform each scene for an audience.

5.) Reflect

Discuss or write your thoughts about the following reflection questions.

- How were you similar and/or different from the character you portrayed in each scenario?
- How did it feel to portray a role that you have limited or no experience with?
- What did you discover about the emotions of your character when you put them together with your partner?
- How did you choose which emotion to focus on?

Other ways to Play:

1. Try writing your own basic script that could be used in a variety of different situations.
2. For more writing practice, write a monologue (paragraph-style spoken piece from one perspective) in the voice of your character to further understand their point of view.
3. Consider using a virtual platform to perform for other friends and family members.
4. If you don't have a partner, you could challenge yourself to play both parts. Consider how you can use your voice and body language to create two distinct characters.