ENG 1D0

**Docudrama Guiding Questions for**

**Editing and Revising Your Scripts**

See also “Performing a Dialogue” in *Reading and Writing for Success* pages 50 to 52.

Directions: Make sure that your Docudrama team have written drafts of all six individually-crafted scenes. Make sure that digital copies are accessible to ALL group members this weekend for editing. Also make sure that you have one print copy of your drafts in your docudrama files for your teacher to read.

Each group member needs to read all six scripts this weekend and to answer the guiding questions below as part of your editing and revision process.

**Overview Questions:**

1. Is each scene clearly titled and labelled? Is the inquiry question written at the top of the first page of each scene? Is the byline under the title so it’s clear who wrote each scene?
2. Does the scene implicitly and/or explicitly answer the inquiry question? Does each scene give a different answer to the inquiry question?
3. Is the scene long enough? 6 to 7 minutes? (7 to 8 pages)
4. Does the scene provide a background summary of the scene? Does the summary clearly explain the conflict or cause of tension in the scene?
5. Does the scene have a cast of characters? Is there a description of the appearance, costume, background, and important personality traits for each character?
6. Does the scene include a description of the set? What lighting, background images, props, furniture is essential to the scene? At the minimum, is it clear where and when the scene takes place and what the overall mood/atmosphere of the scene is at the beginning?

**Dialogue Questions: Development of Plot, Character and Mood**

1. In the dialogue properly formatted? Are character names consistently capitalized? Do you single space the dialogue but double-space between each speaker? Are stage and acting directions consistently placed in italics.
2. Does your dialogue reveal the characters’ personalities, thoughts, moods, feelings, opinions and problems?
3. Does your dialogue show the relationship between the characters?
4. Does your dialogue move the plot forward? Are there at least three stages of plot?
5. Does it create an atmosphere?
6. Does it reveal important past events?
7. Does it foreshadow important future events?
8. Does it reveal events that happen during the course of the drama but not on stage?
9. Does the dialogue reveal conflict and build tension between characters? Is there a release of tension?
10. Do any of the characters have monologues that reveal new conflicts, inner tensions, or surprise twists?
11. Will the audience know what the characters want?
12. How do the feelings of the characters change by the end of the scene?
13. Will the audience feel dramatic or situational irony because they know something that one or more of the characters doesn’t? Or does the plot take a twist that is unexpected by both characters and audience?
14. Do the final speeches in the scene signal changes in the mood? What is the mood at the end of the scene?
15. What is the emotional climax of the scene?

**Connecting the Scenes together:**

1. Are all six scenes connected thematically? What needs to be changed, added or deleted to strengthen the thematic connections?
2. What is the best possible order for the six scenes? Do any of the scenes need to be reordered/renumbered?
3. What will connect the scenes dramatically and/or in terms of stagecraft? What transitions will you need to add? Possible answers are below:
4. Narrator who links the scenes: an on-air broadcaster or TV show host who directs the audience through the scene changes, a narrator in the present time who is recalling past events in a series of flashbacks.
5. A common musical theme that sets a unifying mood or tone
6. A story frame: in which the opening and closing scenes tell one story and the middle scenes tell a-story-within-a-story that helps the characters in the outer story solve a conflict or to answer a question.
7. Visual links through the backdrops, a PowerPoint, short video clips, etc.
8. Other dramatic / staging links of your own devising.

Be prepared on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_with answers to ALL these questions. You and your entire docudrama group will need to run through your script and to agree on final changes.

Revisions to script are due: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Final copy of your script is due on your performance date. You are permitted – so long as the docudrama group agrees – to make minor changes at any point during the rehearsal process. Minor changes may include:

1. Adding directions about lighting, sound, video, acting, and so on.
2. Revising lines of dialogue to make them easier to say, more resonating with the audience, more clear, easier to remember and so on.
3. Deleting unnecessary lines of dialogue that do not advance the plot, character, mood or thematic development.
4. Reassigning lines to make the acting roles more equally divided between all the group members.