

Writing is Thinking on the "Page"
Drama is Thinking on the "Stage"

Using Drama to Enhance Critical Thinking in Writing

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Drama and Improvisation

- **Drama** is the Art or Activity of Performance
- **Improvisation** or improv is “Drama” In the Moment



Your Turn...

How do you define
Critical Thinking?

Why Drama/Improv, Critical Thinking and Writing?

- Argument Writing requires students to analyze and synthesize information in order to form and support points of view
- Acting, specifically, improvisation, requires actors to act and react based on their prior knowledge and connect that to the current situation



Improv...

➤ *Yes, and ...*

➤ *The magic if ...*

Writing ...

Strategy One: ***Yes, and...***

- ▶ Pre-writing/generating ideas (oral webbing)
- ▶ Adding Evidence (cite it)
- ▶ Elaborating on Oral Responses (abstraction ladder)
- ▶ Elaborating on Written Responses (Detailing)
- ▶ Extracting Evidence From a Text for support (show me)



Strategy Two:

But, what if...?

- ▶ Discussion Starter
- ▶ Brainstorming Perspectives
- ▶ Challenging opinions
- ▶ Identifying opposing views
- ▶ Considering causes and effects



Let's Try It...

Technology

Immigration

Sports

Education

Censorship

Health

Politics

Student Reflections

- The hardest part was trying to see the situation from the different perspectives.
- This made me think of possible outcomes I didn't consider. I'm planning to change my claim.
- Talking out the ideas with the add ons helped me think of more issues for our topic.
- The easiest part of that activity was giving a "what if" for the other students' claims
- If only we did more talking like this in all my classes, I'd participate a lot more.
- The opposing views were tough to come up with. But listening to the "what ifs" gave me ideas for supporting my argument.
- This made me think critically about my opinion. I'm questioning it. My group made good points!



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