



Skit Workshopping

Write and act out a short scene.

Project Type: Digital Media, Creative Tactile

Group/Individual: Group

Lesson Plan Audience: Maker Mentor

Time: 2 hours

Hard Skills: Writing, Performance

Soft Skills: Literacy, Planning, Collaboration, Spatial relationships

Ideal # of Participants: 2 to 4

Age Group: 8+

Ideas for Taking it Further: Develop your skit into a movie!

Difficulties/Tips: Requires writing and acting, which some kids may have difficulty with.



Materials:

Paper
Pens
Camera
Tripod
Greenscreen (optional)
Treasure chest of props or costumes

STEPS

1. Brainstorm: Have students break up into groups of 2 to 4. Talk to your students about what kind of story they're creating. Establish a loose plot or central idea. Ask them about the characters they've created, what their motivations are, and how they interact.
2. Start writing! Keep it short. There should be 2 - 4 characters. It should be no less than four lines, but no more than 16 lines, so that no memorization is required. Keep in mind that this is an exercise, not a finished product. Skits can be silly, dramatic, cathartic, or nonsensical! Write a few lines for each character.
3. Act it out! Let the camera roll and put your skit to the test. Once you've run through it, watch the footage. Make mental notes of how you can improve lines or stage directions, or how you want your actors to deliver their lines or change their blocking.
4. Back to the drawing board! Rewrite your script based on the changes you noticed. Talk to your collaborators and rework.
5. Second time around! Act out your improved skit again, in front of the camera.
6. Review the video and continue to make improvements, as many times as you need to. Don't be afraid to try new endings, or change a character's attributes. Keep working until it feels right!
7. Finalize your video! This could mean applying a background on your greenscreen, uploading to Youtube, or simply saving the file on your computer to enjoy.

Tips:

- Don't over complicate it! Keep ideas short and simple!
- Consider each character's perspective.
- Do the characters have an action? A conflict? A resolution?