

Winthrop University  
College of Visual and Performing Arts  
Department of Theatre and Dance  
SAMPLE ASSIGNMENT

THED 345: Exploring K-12 Theatre Education

Theme Drama Assignment

You are to choose an idea for a theme drama (role drama, holistic drama) that has good playable action (scenes that students could act out/improvise) and write a complete detailed lesson plan using the proper lesson plan format (see Lesson Plan Format). Make sure to match the appropriate standards for the target age you are choosing and to include all required elements for lesson plans. You will be leading this theme drama in class for a grade as well (see Theme Drama Evaluation).

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN SELECTING A THEME TO DRAMATIZE:

The theme.....

should involve ideas appropriate for the target audience.

should be structured to provide interesting playable action and dialogue.

should maintain simplicity of only one theme and consistent structure.

should engage the players and have multiple opportunities for them to commit to the playing.

should be suitable with regard to action and language for the target group.

should be an idea and theme that YOU like.

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN PLANNING:

What drama skills are you trying to teach through the use of this theme?

What value is there in exploring this theme?

In what other ways would you like the participants to have experiences?

REQUIRED ELEMENTS IN YOUR THEME DRAMA LESSON PLAN:

All normal requirements of the Lesson Plan Format PLUS:

Under the procedure section, include:

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1. **A STRONG HOOK/PIQUE/MOTIVATOR – an idea, activity, situation that immediately engages and intrigues the players**
  2. **Clearly Organized SEQUENCE OF EVENTS with CLEAR and CLEAN TRANSITIONS FROM SECTION TO SECTION (use of a bell, drum, double clap, etc.)**
  3. **The Use of multiple (4 or more) STRATEGIES AND TECHNIQUES FOR IMPROVISATION (see Strategies and Techniques handout)**
  4. **Clear Moments with LEADER IN ROLE to Facilitate the Drama**  
  
**And SPECIFIC CUES (with props, costume pieces, and /or characterization) to SHOW you are IN ROLE**
  5. **Clear Moments with LEADER OUT OF ROLE to Facilitate the Drama**
  6. **A STRONG PONDER SECTION AS CLOSURE – using open ended and specific questions to REFLECT on the PLAYING and the THEME**
- Note the importance of specific and effective questioning throughout the lesson!
  - Be ready to make changes and think on your feet during the lesson.
  - It is ok to switch gears, stop the playing or replay something.