

Monologue to Scene

A Transition Exercise



You will need...

- Pen/Pencil
- Existing Monologue Draft
- Paper

- 1) Read through your monologue at least twice from beginning to end. First, get a feel for your existing draft, then read through looking for one word or line that really sticks out. Choose one line or word that you feel is the **heart** of the monologue. Ask yourself why that line or word feels important. Does it summarize the main idea? Change the character's mind? How might it affect an audience?
- 2) Now find the 5 W's of your monologue:
 - **Who** is your **speaker**? Who are they **speaking to**?
 - **What** does your speaker **want**? **What** is in the way of them getting what they want?
 - **Where** is the speaker? How does location affect what the speaker can or can't say?
 - **When** does the monologue **take place**? What time of day? Time of year? **When** did your character first begin to want the thing that they are now speaking about?
 - Finally, most importantly, and most difficultly, **why does the speaker need to say these words RIGHT NOW?** Monologues tend to come from a strong, active NEED to speak in a particular moment.
- 3) Now answer the following questions about your monologue:
 - Could your monologue **start** a scene? **End** one?
 - What happens immediately **before** or **after** this speech?
 - How does the **location** or **time** affect the scene? Where would this character be able to speak the most clearly/intimately/angrily? What place or time might enable them to admit secrets or desires?
- 4) Now that you have all this information, choose one of the following prompts to begin writing a longer scene based around your monologue.
 - The **heart** of your monologue, the line or word you chose, becomes the **first sentence or word** of a longer scene. What would the person to whom your character is speaking say in response?
 - Write the scene that happens immediately **before** your monologue. How does your character build up the courage to say what she says? What drives him to finally speak out?
 - Write the scene that happens immediately **after** your monologue. How do other characters react to what your character says? What do they say? What do they do? What happens next?
 - Return to your original monologue. Give the person your character is speaking to permission to interrupt your character. Add in lines for that person wherever you think they want to interrupt. Your monologue will need to change in order to respond to this character's interruptions.
 - Choose a new character and write a scene where the character from your monologue asks this new character for help or advice in dealing with the problem from your monologue.

Example: In my monologue, my character wants his mom to knock before coming into his room. Now I will write a scene between my character and his sister, where they discuss how mom never knocks and come up with a plan to change her behavior.
- 5) You can work on several of these prompts to begin to develop various scenes for your play. Put them together in an order that makes sense and begin to think about the arc of your play's story. Choose an introduction scene, a climax scene, and a resolution (beginning, middle, and end) for your play.