



## **SAMPLE RESPONSE – HIGH SCHOOL**

*Four Years*

*By Name of Playwright*

You have written a play that very creatively explores the high school experience of a group of friends, each different from the other and unique in his or her perspective and relationship to his or her past. Eliot, Kristina, Eugene, and Harper are four high school graduates who come together to enjoy one last moment before each of their lives changes as they head off to college.

One of the things we liked most about your play was the exciting use of past and present and the way that you use the physical space on stage to create scenes that happen in real time and in flashback. The way that you move between past and present, enabling each of your main characters to have a moment of direct address with the audience, is a very effective way to develop character while inviting the audience into the world of your play. We enjoy how vivid and unique Elliot, Harper, Eugene, and Kris are. You have created a colorful cast and the situations each of them relives in their flashback are familiar and relatable. We think it would be great fun to watch these characters develop even further in performance as actors begin to play with the relationships and further define the characters in relation to one another.

In revising your play, we encourage you to consider what happens in the present that drives the recollections and pushes the story forward. What is the main conflict in your play? We see that you have developed several conflicts in each of the separate flashbacks (for example, the relationship, uncertainty, and flirtation between Kris and Elliot creates a dramatic tension that drives the story forward), but what is the conflict that develops throughout the arc of the play as a whole? Whose story is it? Is it Eugene's story? He is the only character who appears through each of the various flashbacks, and as a result becomes a sort of narrator, in charge of the story. If it is his story, what does he want? How can you set the plot in motion in the present tense at the beginning of your play and develop it each time you return from a flashback?

At the end of the play, Elliot confesses his love to Kris, and she reciprocates with a kiss. It is a nice way to end the dramatic question you float earlier in the play. If this is the central conflict in your play, is there a way to set it up sooner and to revise each flashback to further develop the world of the play around this relationship?

We loved reading your play. You have a great talent for creating characters who are fun to experience and we hope that you will continue to write and develop your skill as a playwright. We believe there is a ton of potential in this play, and we encourage you to revise and keep working on it as we are confident you will discover new stories to tell and new ways for these characters to come life!