



THE YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS YEAR

OVERVIEW: In the classic program, a school purchases anywhere from **10 to 25 hours** of in-class teaching artist time to guide the students through a playwriting process using experiential, student-centered techniques that foster growth and success for all age and learning levels.

STRUCTURE: Young Playwrights does not prescribe a curriculum to its teachers or teaching artists, so that programs can be tailored to suit various variables (see below). We do, however, recommend that the program follows the following skeletal structure:

1. A One-Hour Planning Meeting between teacher and teaching artist.
2. 2-5 sessions devoted to ensemble-building, idea generating and teaching playwriting fundamentals.
3. 5-10 sessions devoted to ongoing first draft writing, sharing, and revisiting playwriting concepts as needed.
4. 2-7 sessions devoted to revision, feedback and sharing.
5. 1-3 sessions devoted to a final mini-festival.

VARIABLES: Just as each student is different and unique, each Young Playwrights classroom is unique. Some of the variables Artistic Teams should think about which will help to shape and tailor the program to each classroom are:

1. How many total program hours are there?
2. What is the length of the class period? How many total visits will the teaching artist be able to make?
3. What grade level is being served?
4. What is the size of the class?
5. What are the perceived capabilities of the students? (This speaks to learning styles, comfort with writing, skill levels, etc.)
6. Is the teacher able to devote any class time between sessions for students to continue working on their plays?
7. What kind of play would you as an Artistic Team like the students to write? (Class play? Small group plays? Individual plays? See reverse.)
8. Are there any specific **literacy skills or other goals** that the teacher would like the playwriting process to support?
9. What are the classroom's **technological capabilities**?
10. Does your program have any **in-class professional actor hours**?
11. What kind of mini-festival would you and the students like to have? (A class sharing, a class-to-class sharing, a grade level assembly, etc.)



SAMPLE PLAYWRITING STRUCTURES

OVERVIEW: In the classic program, we encourage the Artistic Team to pick a playwriting structure that they believe will best serve the Artistic Team’s goals, the perceived ability and interest of the students, and the number of total sessions. As Artistic Teams make this decision together, we encourage creative thinking about the question, “**What is playwriting?**”

Here are just **some** examples of what playwriting can be in the classroom:

Arrangement of Playwrights:

- Ensemble-Generated Play (Class Play)
- Small Group Plays
- Partner Plays
- Individual Plays

Arrangement of Play:

- One Scene or Ten-Minute Play
- One Monologue or Collection of Monologues
- Three Scene Play (Beginning, Middle and End)
- Five Scene Play (Beginning, Conflict, Complication, Climax, End)
- Eight Scene Play

The above options are just that – *options!* As you plan together as an Artistic Team, you can choose from the models above or use these as a starting point to invent a model of your own.

NOTE: While it isn’t required that the Artistic Team give the students a defined structure (i.e., each of you will write a five scene play), it is good to give the students **some** form of structure so they have an outline in their mind as they are writing and can comfortably and successfully reach that first big goal – *THE END!*