

# WHOOPENSOCKER!

## Educator Quick-Start Guide

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### What Is Whoopensocker?

"Whoopensocker" is an old Wisconsin word that means "Something extraordinary of its kind." For us, Whoopensocker is an arts integration program that uses improv and theater as tools to teach creative writing. Through games, writing, and performance, we help students realize how extraordinary their ideas are.

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### Learning Goals

By using Whoopensocker collection resources, learners in your space will:

- **Build Confidence:** Take creative risks in a safe environment and grow a writing voice.
  - **Write:** Author unique stories inspired by play and collaboration.
  - **Celebrate:** Share accomplishments and keep trying new things.
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### Using the Resources

Whoopensocker video resources model arts-based practices that encourage learners to take risks in learning to write. They are designed to scaffold risk-taking using the "gradual release of responsibility model" (Fisher & Frey, 2013): *I do, we do, you do*

- I do - warm up and activity lead
- We do - collaborative story making and performance
- You do - individual writing and sharing

[The videos in this collection](#) are designed to help you bring these practices to your learning space!

- **Welcome to Whoopensocker** introduces the teaching artists and the program.
- **The Agreements** set the stage for self-expression and collaboration.

- **Warm-up games** help students feel comfortable sharing their own ideas and supporting one another's ideas.
- **Brainstorming and Scriptwriting** model structured support to generate ideas and place them into a narrative.

There are many right ways to put this into practice. You might plan a full 90 minute lesson integrating all the resources, culminating in a collaborative student performance. Or, you might choose to sprinkle parts of the experience across multiple lessons or days, or to add a dollop of fun (with a group game) during your morning meetings or anytime the group needs a bit of a boost. The [educator resources section of the collection page](#) has an expanded educator guide including tips, tricks, printables, and a detailed roadmap for whatever path you choose.