

DRAMA RUBRIC

(Source: Starkey, David. *Creative Writing: Four Genres in Brief*.
2nd Edition. Boston: Bedford St. Martins, 2013. Print.)

Creating Believable Characters

- Do each of the characters have clear goals that they want badly to attain?
- Are the characters distinctive and unusual yet credible as three-dimensional human beings?

Writing Convincing Dialogue

- Does the dialogue sound like real speech between real people?
- Does the dialogue add to the character development, heighten the conflict, and move the action forward?
- Does the dialogue introduce pertinent backstory in a realistic way?

Structuring the Dramatic Scene

- Does the play begin with clear, believable and captivating interactions that serve to introduce the characters (**Exposition**)?
- Does the play have immediate conflict (**Inciting Incident**)?
- Does the play conclude with palpable tension and conflict that is engaging and not boring (**Rising Action**)?
- Does the play continue with an unpredictable complication that challenges the characters to their core (**Crisis**)?
- Does the play culminate with a highly tense, conflict-driven “point of no return” for your characters (**Climax**)?
- Following the Climax, does the play tie up or clarify any loose ends between characters or important subplots (**Falling Action**)?
- Does the play resolve all conflicts and central themes in convincing ways, for better or worse, so that audiences leave with a sense of closure (**Denouement**)?

Crafting a Theme

- Does the play have at least one clear theme that will inspire further thought and discussion after the performance is over?
- Does the theme emerge as a result of the play’s conflict and characters?
- Does the title subtly, but unmistakably, point the audience in the direction of one or more of the play’s important themes?

Onstage: The Elements of Production

- Is the play written so that it can be performed by actual actors on a theatrical stage with a no-frills set?
- Has the author made effective use of theatrical lighting and sounds, props, costumes, and effects?

1. Describe and discuss at least two things you liked best about this draft. What works in this draft, and why? Use the rubric on pg. 1 as a guide, and be as specific as possible with your feedback.
2. Describe and discuss at least two things you did not like about this draft. What doesn't work in this draft, and why? If you were the playwright, what would YOU do differently in this draft? Use the rubric on pg. 1, and be as specific as possible with your feedback and advice.
3. Provide your classmate with **AT LEAST one (1) specific suggestion for the overall improvement.** Use the rubric on page 1. What would YOU like to see developed further in the next draft of this play, and why? In your opinion, what would make this play even better?