

DRAMA RUBRIC

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

Creative 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 scene begin with clear, believable and captivating interactions that serve to introduce the characters (**Exposition**)?
- Does the scene have immediate conflict (**Inciting Incident**)?
- Does the scene conclude with palpable tension and conflict that is engaging and not boring (**Rising Action**)?
- Does the scene continue with an unpredictable complication that challenges the characters to their core (**Crisis**)?
- Does the scene culminate with a highly tense, conflict-driven “point of no return” for your characters (**Climax**)?

Crafting a Theme

- Does the scene 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 scene’s conflict and characters?
- Does the title subtly, but unmistakably, point the audience in the direction of the scene’s theme?

Onstage: The Elements of Production

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

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