

Curriculum Units and Learning Outcomes

Content Area: Drama	Grade 8
Unit Title: Theatre Sports: Improv Competition	
Unit Summary: In this unit students will work on building trust and a level of comfort with their classmates to create an improvised scene based on simple ideas.	
Massachusetts Standards: ● 1.13 In rehearsal and performance situations, perform as a productive and responsible member of an acting ensemble (i.e., demonstrate personal responsibility and commitment to a collaborative process) ● 1.7 Create and sustain a believable character throughout a scripted or improvised scene ● 2.8 Improvise characters, dialogue, and actions that focus on the development and resolution of dramatic conflicts	
Enduring Understandings: Students will understand that: ● <i>Students will understand that a sense of comfortability and trust creates a successful ensemble or team.</i> ● <i>Students will understand that improvisational performances are best performed by a cohesive ensemble.</i> ● <i>Students will understand that improvisational scenes can be created from simple ideas.</i> ● <i>Students will understand that a sense of heated competition can be achieved through improvisational theater.</i>	
Essential Questions: ● <i>How can a group learn to work together effectively?</i> ● <i>How does a sporting event differ from a theatrical experience?</i> ● <i>How do improvisational activities enhance the strength of an ensemble?</i> ● <i>How is improv acting different than acting with a script?</i> ● <i>What various strengths do actors have?</i> ● <i>What prompts propel a strong improv scene?</i>	

Students will demonstrate KNOWLEDGE of:

- *Students will know Keith Johnstone and his development TheatreSports*
- *Students will know scene development elements (environment, character, conflict, dialogue)*
- *Students will know improvisational performance terms and techniques (pegging forward, “yes and...”, spontaneity)*
- *Students will know performance space aesthetics (space, blocking, props, set, etc.)*

Students will be SKILLED at:

- *Students will be able to analyze and create an improvisational scene*
- *Students will be able to work together as an ensemble*
- *Students will be able to incorporate the Four Improv Rules into their scene; saying yes, yes and..., making statements, and incorporating mistakes*

Estimated Duration: Seven class periods