

“Carve your name on hearts, not tombstones. A legacy is etched into the minds of others and the stories they share about you.”

- Shannon Adler, author



Lesson Plan 4: Clarity, Brevity, and Emotion in Your Story

Objective

Students will edit their performance piece using recommendations from articles.

Introduction (1 minute)

Now that you have developed a draft of your performance piece, it is time to take that work and ensure that it is appropriate for the performance at the end of our time together. Today's session will focus on editing your work based on best practices for creating performance pieces.

Do Now (7-10 minutes)

Based on what kind of performance piece you have drafted, please read one of the following articles.

Read one of the following articles for additional information to help edit your idea into a usable piece.

For spoken word or slam poetry:

[Article 1⁴⁷](#)

For songs or raps:

[Article 2⁴⁸](#)

[Article 3⁴⁹](#)

For monologues:

[Article 4⁵⁰](#)

Lesson Materials (20 minutes)

Using the guidance of the articles, revise your draft. As you edit your draft, use the rubric found on the next page. If you are writing an original rap, one of the following tracks found in [this folder⁵¹](#).

Closing (2 minutes)

Today, you had the opportunity to use professional advice to revise and edit your draft according to the final performance rubric. As homework before the next session, you should practice your piece and be prepared to present in front of a partner. In the next lesson, you will receive feedback from a partner to ensure that the emotion and main idea of your piece is clear to your audience.

Homework (30+ minutes)

For the next session, practice your piece (again, review the rubric for clarity on exemplar performance pieces). In your next two sessions, you will perform your piece in front of a partner.

Name _____ Title _____

Performance Piece Rubric

Your performance piece should be 2-3.5 minutes in length. For songs, music should be provided in MP4 form (please ensure you are using a karaoke format without lyrics). If you plan to play an instrument, please limit to either guitar or piano for staging purposes.

Delivery	Not Yet Within Expectations (1-2)	Minimally Meets Expectations (3)	Fully Meets Expectations (4)	Exceeds Expectations (5)
Point of View	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> point of view and character are inconsistent an implied listener is seldom evident 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> point of view and character are clear and consistent an implied listener is evident 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> point of view and character are clear, focused, and consistent an implied listener is established 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> point of view and character are integrated; an implied listener is evident throughout the monologue
Physical Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lacks involvement; no movement or gestures limited use of nonverbal gestures and facial expressions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> behaviors, gestures, or movements do not fit the character nonverbal gestures and facial expressions are occasionally distracting or inappropriate for the piece 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> gestures or movements are fine, but may have omitted obvious behaviors nonverbal gestures and facial expression suit the piece 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> natural gestures and movement enhance message; fit piece nonverbal gestures and facial expression enhance the piece
Pacing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> either too fast or too slow shorter than 90 seconds or longer than 3 minutes 30 seconds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> either too fast or too slow shorter than 1 minute, 45 seconds or longer than 3 minutes 15 seconds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> delivery generally successful less than 15 seconds shorter than 2 minutes or less than 15 seconds longer than 3 minutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> excellent pacing that helps build the emotional response to the piece between 2-3.5 minutes
Speaking Techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses volume, tone, and pace inappropriately or ineffectively enunciation is not clear; performance does not flow smoothly and contains many breaks or fillers that are distracting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses volume, tone, and pace somewhat to suit the content and purpose enunciation is mostly clear; piece flows adequately with some noticeable breaks or fillers (um, uh, etc) that are distracting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses volume, tone, and pace appropriate to the content and purpose enunciation is clear; expression is appropriate and natural; piece flows well with few noticeable breaks or fillers that are distracting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> adjusts volume, tone, and pace to achieve a special effect or for impact enunciation is exceptionally clear; monologue flows smoothly without noticeable breaks or fillers
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the piece rarely reveals the thoughts, feelings, and context of the performer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the piece occasionally reveals the thoughts, feelings, and context of the performer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the monologue interprets the thoughts, feelings, and context of the performer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the piece effectively elaborates the thoughts, feelings, and context of the performer
Meaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> often confusing; content may be inappropriate few details; often very brief; parts may be irrelevant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> straightforward detail and description tend to be direct and concrete 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> some originality and creative development effective detail and description 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> originality and a strong voice some maturity and sophistication