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| **Department: Theater** | **Course Title: Improvisation** |
| **Grade(s): 9-12** | **Prerequisites: None** |

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| **Concept/Focus** | **Skills** | **Methods of Assessment** | **Framework Strand(s), and Standard(s)** |
| **1.**   * **The history of improvisational theatre** * **Build group trust and an atmosphere of support is required** * **The only option is to say YES to all class workshops** * **Wear comfortable clothes/shoes (bare feet are O.K.)** * **Improvisation is about reacting, and creating in the moment without negative judgments.** * **Improvisation is a communication skill that uses multiple intelligences.** | * **Giving and taking** * **The agreement** * **Rules of improvisation (i.e. keep the ball moving)** * **The five senses** * **Information** * **Emotion** * **Theater serves as a necessary function** * **We are all storytellers** * **Theatre is a thought driven** * **Theater is a hands-on, active and experimental process** * **Theater involves creating a belief system** * **Critique of classmates’ performance** * **Understanding and creating stage pictures** * **Set as the environment of the story** | * **Fables** * **Origins of story** * **Ritual as theater** * **Creation myth** * **Actor’s warm-up** * **Understanding “Thought”, “Character committed to action” and “relationship”** * **Staccato-Legatto** | **5. a, b, c, f**  **8. a, b, c, d, e, f,**  **2. a, b, c**  **2. d, e** |
| **2. Where do characters come from? How do you find a character?** | * **Character: character centers, face centers** * **Building story through action** * **Qualities of movement: character walks** * **Writing prompts from literature and outside work** | * **Finding characters in literature** * **Cartoon characters** * **Characters in dilemma** | **1. a, b** |
| **3. How can the act of pantomime provide realism in theater?** | * **How body posture changes while performing various tasks** * **Pantomime various objects** * **Provide object consistency** * **Build a scene with mime** | * **Archetypal actions** * **Mirror exercise** * **Marked development of pantomime skills developed during mirroring when used in improvised scenes** | **4. a, b, c** |
| **4.**   * **Writing a scenario** * **Through theater exercises, students will develop to sharpen their perceptions and their abilities to make choices.** | * **The importance of watching a partner** * **Using improvisation as a means to get to story** | * **Scenarios** * **Building scenarios from given circumstances** * **Scene writing with direct conflict between two characters** | **3. c, d** |
| **5. Understanding physical space through movement and dance** | * **6 Areas in Space** * **Active verbs** * **Contact Improvisation** * **Understanding the qualities of movement** * **Contraction/expansion Chekhov’s Ten Archetypal Gestures** * **Laban’s Eight basic Effort Actions** | * **Movement pieces/rituals** * **Seasons exercises** * **Story-telling through dance** | **7. f** |
| **6.**   * **Improvisational styles** * **Performance techniques** | * **Objectives and obstacles** * **Tactic and adjustments** * **How to continue an improvised scene** | * **Improvisation games (presents, yes let’s)** * **Competitions** | **7. a, b, c** |
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