



SOUTHEAST CENTER for
EDUCATION in the ARTS **at** **UTC**

Find Your Voice! Devising Original Works Around Tough Subjects

Sample Play Devising Process for *#MakingMemories*

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Devising an original play generally starts with a central issue and/or theme that an ensemble of actors crafts a story around, rehearse, and perform before an audience. A director and/or an educator who aids the ensemble with staying focused and productive facilitates the play devising process.

#MakingMemories employs hybrid process includes a combination of both scripted and devised work. A scripted structure has already been developed around the theme of friendship, but moments during the play remain intentionally “unfinished” for an ensemble of student actors to complete. The purpose of utilizing a hybrid-devising format helps the facilitator and student actors learn about a process that may be new to them while working within a structure that has already been developed for them.

Resources:

Lovesy, S., & Hatton, C. (2008). *Young at Art: Classroom Playbuilding in Practice*, United Kingdom: David Fulton Publishers.

Norris, J. (2009). *Playbuilding as Qualitative Research: A Participatory Arts-Based Approach*. Walnut Creek, California: Left Coast Press.

Taylor, P. (2003). *Applied Theatre: Creating Transformative Encounters in the Community*. Portsmouth, New Hampshire: Heinemann.

Weigler, W. (2001). *Strategies for Playbuilding: Helping Groups Translate Issues into Theatre*. Portsmouth, New Hampshire: Heinemann

How the Devised Process Aligns with Tennessee State Standards	
Tennessee Theatre Curriculum Standards, Grades 6-8 and Grades 9-12	
Standards	Alignment to Drama-Based Skills and Knowledge
Theatre Standard 1.0 Script Writing: Students will write scripts through improvising, drafting, and refining scripts based on personal experiences and heritage, imagination, literature, and history.	Student actors will revise scenes to further develop characters and deepen the plot as it connects with a central theme and/or issue.
Theatre Standard 2.0 Character Acting: Students will develop basic acting skills by portraying characters in improvised and scripted scenes.	Student actors will make expressive vocal and physical character choices based on textual evidence.
Theatre Standard 6.0 Theatrical Presentation: The students will compare and incorporate art forms by analyzing methods of presentation and audience response for theatre, dramatic media (such as film, television and electronic media), and other art forms.	Student actors will integrate film in the formal presentation of their original play through video recorded scenes that align with the play's central theme and/or issue.
Tennessee State English Language Arts Standards- Grade 6-12	
Standards	Alignment to Drama-Based Skills and Knowledge
RL.6.3: Analyze how and why individuals, events, or ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.	Student actors will analyze characters from their original play and describe how character needs, objectives, and tactics evolve throughout the course of the play.
RL.7.3: Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact (e.g., how setting shapes the characters or plot).	
RL.8.3: Analyze how particular lines or dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of character, or provoke a decision.	
RL.9-10.3: Analyze how complex characters (e.g. those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme.	
RL.11-12.3: Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama (e.g., where a story is set, how the action is ordered, how the characters are introduced and developed).	