



Glossary: 2018 Minnesota Academic Standards in the Arts¹

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All Arts Areas: Strand² Terms

Foundations: Foundational knowledge and skills include basic elements, principles and skills which are the building blocks of working and engaging in artistic processes in each arts area. The foundational knowledge and skills support student learning in the four artistic processes of Create, Perform/Present, Respond, and Connect.

Create: The process of generating original art, including conceiving and developing new artistic ideas and work.

Perform (dance, music, theatre): The process of realizing artistic ideas and work through interpretation and presentation.

Present (media arts and visual arts): The process of interpreting and sharing artistic work.

Respond: The process of analyzing, interpreting, and evaluating how the arts convey meaning.

Connect: The process of relating artistic ideas and work with personal meaning and external context.

¹ Adapted from National Coalition for Core Arts Standard (2014). *National Core Arts Standards*. State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education. Dover, DE (www.nationalcoreartsstandards.org)

² Adapted from National Coalition for Core Arts Standards (2014). *National Core Arts Standards: A Conceptual Framework for Arts Learning* (2014). Retrieved June 20, 2019 from <http://www.nationalartsstandards.org/sites/default/files/Conceptual%20Framework%2007-21-16.pdf>.

Theater Terms

Acting techniques: Specific skills, pedagogies, theories, or methods of investigation used by actors to prepare for a theater performance.

Character traits: Observable actions that illustrate a character's personality, values, beliefs, and/or history.

Conflict: The problem, confrontation, or struggle in a scene or play; conflict may include a character against himself or herself, a character in opposition to another character, a character against nature, a character against society, or a character against the supernatural.

Design: Planning (v.)/A plan(n.) for the "look" of a theatrical experience, including technical elements and appropriate artistic and technological choices for the mood, theme, setting, and characters involved.

Devised work: Creation of an original performance piece by the individual or ensemble that performs it.

Dialogue: A conversation (either scripted or improvised) between two or more characters.

Dramatic play: Make-believe experience in which participants assign and/or accept roles and then act them out.

Dramatic structure: Whether the play is tragedy, comedy, melodrama, or farce, -- and whether presented in one act, divided into multiple acts, or even sub-divided into scenes within acts -- the elements of a plotline (exposition, inciting incident, conflict, rising action, climax, and resolution or falling action) are typically present and the action "builds" in intensity.

Gesture: Expressive, planned movement of the body or limbs.

Given circumstances: The underlying actions and events that have happened before the play, story, or devised piece begins.

Guided drama experience: A leader guides participants during a drama exercise through side-coaching, narration, and prompting; the action of the drama usually does not stop for the leader to support the students; facilitator may guide participants in or out of role.

Improvise(d): The spontaneous, intuitive, and immediate response of movement and speech; a distinction is sometimes made between spontaneous improvisation (immediate and unrehearsed) and prepared improvisation (shaped and rehearsed).

Motivation: Reasons a character or group behaves or reacts in a particular way in a scene or play.

Objective: A goal or particular need or want that causes a character's behavior in a scene or play.

Physical movement: Expressive, planned movement of the body or limbs.

Plot: A narrative or story as revealed through the action and/or dialogue; traditionally, a plot or "story line" contains the elements of exposition, inciting incident, conflict, rising action, climax, and resolution or falling action.

Production elements: Technical (including technological) elements selected for use in a specific production, including sets, sound, costumes, lights, music, props, and make-up, as well as other elements specific to the production such as puppets, masks, special effects, or other storytelling devices/concepts.

Scripted work (Script): Written document for the theater that generally includes a description of the setting, a list of the characters, the dialogue, and the action of the characters.

Staging: Patterns of movement in a scene or play including, for example, stage crosses (changes on bodily placement or "blocking" while characters are onstage), entrances, and exits that help to convey character relationships and meaning.

Stage types/directions: Various configurations of venues on which the performers and scenes are presented to an audience, such as traditional proscenium (picture frame) stage common in many schools (on which Stage Right and Stage Left are directions from the performers' perspective rather than the audience's and Upstage is away from the audience, while Downstage is toward the audience), thrust stages (audience on three sides such as in Shakespeare's time or at the Guthrie's Wurtele Theater), or arena ("in-the-round" with audience surrounding the acting area).

Story drama: Episodic, process-centered, improvised form of drama that uses existing literature as a starting point for drama exploration; the drama explores moments (before, after, or within) that may not exist in the story and is presented in a non-performance format that is intended to benefit the participants themselves. The story itself includes characters, setting, dialogue, and plot that create a story.

Tactic: The means by which a character or characters seek to achieve their objective, the selection of tactics are based on the obstacle presented; in acting and directing a tactic refers to a specific action verb.

Technical elements: The aspects, items, and effects of dramatic spectacle such as sets, sound, costume, lights, music, props, technological effects (such as projections), and makeup used to create a unified and meaningful physical environment for a theatrical production.

Visual composition: The arrangement of actors and scenery on a stage for a theatrical production, sometimes known as mise en scène.

"Work" in Drama/Theater: General term given to a play, scene, or performance unit, whether devised or scripted, improvised or rehearsed.