

Rehearsals

In drama, we rehearse to practice and polish up our performances before we present them in front of a live audience. Rehearsals are preparation sessions for the performance. Rehearsals provide an opportunity to discuss and analyze the play, to learn lines and blocking, and to perfect every aspect of the play. Each rehearsal can have a different focus:

- 1- **Reading rehearsals** are designed to read-through the play and understand it.
- 2- **Blocking rehearsals** are designed to plot and plan all the movements of the actors on the performance space.
- 3- **Line checks** are rehearsals designed to check that all actors have memorized their lines. During line checks, the actors just sit and say the lines to each other without movements and actions.
- 4- **Developing rehearsals** are those where the director and the actors work on every part of the play, making changes and adjustments as needed.
- 5- **Run-throughs** are rehearsals without any stops. These are only conducted when all blocking has been firmly established and actors have fully memorized their lines.
- 6- **Polishing rehearsals** are designed to polish up the performance and fine-tune characterization, voice projection, picking up cues and believability.
- 7- **Technical rehearsals** focus on the technical aspects of the play: lighting, sound, music, special effects and set changes.
- 8- **Dress rehearsals** are conducted as though it were an actual performance, all actors are costumed and in complete make-up, and the crews are in place.

Rehearsals are supposed to help us reflect on our performance skills so we can improve.

It is useful to document rehearsal by keeping photos and video footage. This can help the director show actors areas where they need to improve. Questions for the director and the actors to consider when reflecting on rehearsal:

- 1- Did the actors stay in character all throughout (even when not talking) or did they break character?
- 2- Did the actors project their voice enough so that they can be heard by everyone in the audience?
- 3- Did the actors speak slowly and clearly enough for everyone to understand?
- 4- Did the actors use expressive facial expressions, appropriate posture and body language?
- 5- Did the actors make sure they are facing the audience whenever they are speaking?
- 6- Did the actors move with purpose or was there some fidgeting and shuffling that they seem unaware of?
- 7- Were the characters believable?
- 8- Did the actors listen and respond to each other during their performance?

Name of student: _____ Date: _____
Title of scene/performance/task: _____

Use this table to record and reflect on your rehearsals:

Rehearsal focus	What we did?	What problems did we encounter?	How were these problems solved?	What needs to be improved?