

THEATRE CENTRE

Online Writing Course

Writing for Performance

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Please use this worksheet with the related video.

Exercise 1: Quick Lists

Using the topic titles below, write all the words that come to your mind. You have 30 seconds per topic title.

TOP TIP: Be bold and remember there is no wrong answer.

Colours

Chocolate bars

Body parts

Things found in the drawer

Things found at the beach

Exercise 2: Generating Material

Use the situation headings below as prompts to write as many details that come to your mind. You have 1 minute to write as much as you can per heading.

Challenge yourself to think broadly – objects, actions, emotions, smells, colours, characters.

Things left unsaid...

Things that make you trust someone...

Things my parents never taught me...

Extension Exercise

Spend 1 minute reading through your lists. What are you surprised to read? What are you inspired to read? What did you find challenging about this activity?

Now complete the situation headings below, writing as much as you can in 1 minute (per list).

Things I'd change if I could...

Places to stand when the sea is rough...

Birthday cake wishes...

Moments we wish we stood up...

Things we lost in the fire...

Exercise 3: Writing for Yourself

Take one of your lists from Exercise 2 to write something for yourself. You could write a monologue, a poem, song lyrics, stage directions for a dancer, a recipe, a rant, a political speech.

Your writing should be inspired by one of your lists. You have 5 minutes to write your piece. Remember what you write is for you, not for anyone else.

Exercise 4: Reflect and Edit

So, you've written something, but what next?

First, read through your writing. Next, use the questions and prompts below to make edits to your writing.

You might realise that you want to re-write your whole piece and that's fine. Reflecting on, and editing, your writing is a great way to improve it.

Action and Conflict

- How can you make sure the character wants something?
- What is stopping them from getting it?

Witness to Change

- Can you let your character discover something live in front of us?
- Can you change some of your full stops into question marks?

What is your intention?

- What do you want this piece of writing to do?
- What question are you asking?