

Playwriting and Screenwriting

2022-2023: Mrs. Spaziano

Texts:

Writing for the Stage by Leroy Clark

The Screenwriter's Manual by Bowles, Mangravite and Zorn, Jr.

Various screenplays and playscripts excerpts.

Unit 1 - Playwriting

Essential Questions:

What is the format of a play?

What are the parts of a playscript?

What does it mean to raise the stakes?

What is manuscript form vs. publication format?

Learning Targets – I can:

Identify the parts of a play.

Identify and implement the points on a plot mountain.

Use playwriting terminology correctly.

Create an original 10 page play.

Tasks:

Students will write a 10 page play with an original plot and characters in manuscript format.

Unit 2 - Screenwriting

Essential Questions:

What is the format of a screenplay?

What are the parts of a screenplay?

What is the three act structure of a film?

Learning Targets – I can:

Identify the parts of a screenplay.

Identify and implement the three act structure of a play.

Use screenwriting terminology correctly.

Write in screenplay form.

Tasks:

Students will write scenes in screenplay format.

Students will create a treatment for a play.

Unit 3 - The Business of Playwriting and Screenwriting

Essential Questions:

How does a playwright get their work published?

How does a screenwriter sell their work?

How much control does a screenwriter have over their work?

How does a play evolve from page to stage?

How does a film evolve through the pre-production to post-production process?

Tasks:

Students will read scripts and watch and evaluate filmed theatrical performances; major motion pictures and documentaries in order to reflect on the business practices and evolution of a script in both the theatre and film mediums.