

Guiding Principles of Playwriting

Your assignment is to write a scene about something you care about. It should have a minimum of two and a maximum of four typewritten pages. Use the space below to jot down notes about your scene.

The scene must have:

Characters the people who through their words and actions tell the story of the play (use a minimum of one and a maximum of four characters).

Dialogue the conversation of the characters that reveals their ideas, emotions, and desires.

Stage directions the playwright's directions as to how the lines are said, what action is to take place, and how the set/lights/sound/props/costumes should look (use a minimum of five stage directions per page).

Setting the location of the play (use one location only).

Time when the play takes place; the era, period, season, and time of day (use one time span only; no time change).

Plot the story of the scene (be sure the plot is easy to follow and interesting).

Theme your message; the moral or the lesson about life the main character learns.

Style the genre or type of play (stick to comedy, tragedy, or social drama).