**I AM… Monologue**

* Complete the following sentence stems to describe yourself on the lined side of your cue card:

I was born…

I care about…

I am…

* Group stands in a circle. Each person in turn reads aloud the three items.
* The activity is repeated, each person choosing one item from the list that they think makes them unique. This can be written on the back of the card. Each person in turn, read aloud the one sentence.
* Once all lines are read, tape your cards to the board.
* We will then create an I AM… Monologue. Consider the following:
  + In what order will you present the lines?
  + What action, gesture will be used to accompany each line?
  + What tableaux image can each person contribute to the presentation as she or he says a line?
  + What lines will be said solo? In pairs? As a group?
  + How will you begin and end your group monologue?

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**MONOLOGUES**

**What is a Monologue?**

A longer speech given by a single character.

**How do we do it?**

Start by picking a monologue or character that interests you. Pick a character or topic that you think you can represent.

**Get to know your character:**

Read the monologue carefully – Conduct a “character interview”. Ask questions like:

* Who is speaking?
  + Do we know the character’s name?
  + How old they are?
  + Male/Female?
  + Ethnicity? Religion?
  + Siblings? Parents?
  + Physical Features noted?
  + How are they feeling at this moment (angry, sad, happy, frustrated?)
* Who are they speaking to? (Who is the “Silent Participant”?)
* What kinds of words/language that the character uses that are unfamiliar to you?
* What is the action in the monologue or the issue? Why is the character telling us about it?
* Where does it take place? When does it take place?
* What do you think happened prior to the monologue? What happens afterwards?

**Learn your lines/memorize your lines:**

Strategies –

* Think of your monologue as a story you are telling your friends; you are the character, it’s your story
* Recite lines, one at a time, over and over until they stick
* Have a peer help you with your lines by correcting you as you recite
* Recite your lines with your eyes closed, visualizing what actions you will do while saying your lines
* Write the lines down as you say them

**Voice Projection**

Enunciate your lines – speak clearly, each word in the line is important.

Remember you want to speak loudly, but not yell. Speak from your belly – the person in the back row of the audience should be able to hear you.

**Staging Your Piece**

What props or items might your character be holding or using?

Furniture needed?

Costume – what clothing would your character be wearing?

**Blocking**

Is your character sitting, standing, moving, stationary?

Assign movements to specific lines and words in your monologue.

Recite your lines while practicing your movements.

**Dry Run**

Practice your monologue in front of a peer and ask for feedback – try using their feedback to improve your monologue.

Things audience should be looking for:

* Blocking - Posture/Body Movement – Is the character making the most of his/her body movements? Can we see his/her face at all times regardless of his/her position?
* Eye Contact – Does the character connect with the audience?
* Line Delivery – Can we understand you? Are you enunciating all your words?
* Voice – Do you project your voice, is the tone and volume appropriate for the character?
* Use of Props/Furniture/Costume – does it fit with the character and enhance the performance?