Monologue Portfolio Final Instructions

**Objective:** Perform two contrasting one-minute monologues [a speech by one actor in a play most often to express their mental thoughts aloud, though sometimes also to address directly another character or the audience].

**Purpose:** To learn the fundamentals of a basic audition and apply performance skills and character development.

**Criteria:**

* Choose two contrasting one minute monologues (one classical Greek or Shakespearean and one contemporary [1970 to present])
* Monologues MUST be from theatrical PLAYS (no musicals, no television, no movies)
* Become familiar with your play’s synopsis and your character
* Analyze the character and situation and fill in your analysis on your CROW sheet
* Develop your character including voice and movement by rehearsing
* Include a slate to introduce your monologue
* Perform convincingly and with focus

You will initially present these monologues in two separate rounds with time between the performances to memorize, rehearse, and develop your characters. After performing a monologue, Mrs. Fry/Mrs. Wagstaffe will give you constructive feedback for you to hear, develop, and use in your final.

\*\*Your first semester final is this complete Monologue Portfolio. You will present these for a final grade (40 points) in January. Rubrics will be given the week after Thanksgiving.

**TIPS:**

1. Analyze your scene. First, read the entire play in order to develop an understanding of your character in addition to how your chosen scene fits into the plot. Analyze your character and **break down your monologue into beats**. It may be helpful to annotate your script with the subtext of each beat.
2. Rehearse your monologue. To recreate believable emotions, plan a sequence of movements. Make sure they are specific and help you express appropriate emotions for the scene. **Annotate your monologue** with these movements [stage directions].
3. Include other characters/**Focal Point**. When performing a monologue in which you are speaking to another character, it is a good idea to visualize that character in one spot and keep him/her there. Do this by glancing at the imaginary character at appropriate times and by directing lines to him/her. Even if you move about the stage, that character’s location will probably stay constant. If another character is supposed to be speaking during your monologue, ask yourself the following questions: How long should I pause to listen? How should I respond with my posture and facial expressions to what that character is saying?
4. The Climax. **If your monologue is well constructed, there will be a climax** to your speech. In a monologue climax, it is a moment when your character reaches a point of high emotion, makes a major point, or finally communicates what he/she really wants to say. Decide what the climax of your speech is and how you can most effectively build to it.
5. Performing. **Walk into the space with confidence**. Stop, pause, and say your slate clearly and confidently. Then take a moment to focus yourself. Imagine the scene’s environment and “hear” what the other character has just said to you. **Take a breath** and begin.