

Practice: Role-playing

There are a variety of ways in which drama or dialogue can be used to help bring the reality of an issue to the forefront. Film has long been an arena where issues are explored through dialogue, where stories help us learn more about the world, and how things could be better.

Off the big screen, drama and dialogue are used in counselling and conflict management situations to help people hear and see feelings and emotions that are sometimes hard to talk about. Drama Therapy is an actual mental health therapy that can help individuals on a variety of levels. Outside of therapy, drama and dialogue can bring very personal issues and experiences to a wider audience and raise awareness about topics that are hard to discuss, such as violence in the home.

So for you, it's time to stretch those screenwriting skills! For this practice assignment, you will need to get some creative juices flowing to create a (very) short dialogue that you will share with me for feedback. This will ensure you are on the right track for the assignment at the end of this unit.

You will create a short dialogue (one to two minutes in length) that you will record (in audio or video format). This dialogue can be done with anyone who is available to lend a hand (mom, dad, sister, friend, grandma) but there must be at least two people reading the lines, one of which will be you.

Your dialogue should focus on two characters who are friends, discussing an event one of them has witnessed in which they were a bystander. Alternatively, if you like, you can use this practice as a chance to get feedback on the dialogue you will write for the final assignment, in which case you may use your idea for that assignment as the basis for this dialogue. The point is not to create a sensational or graphic conversation, but to envision a conversation about real-life experiences and begin to represent them for an audience.

Please upload your audio or video file, along with a brief description about your dialogue.