



# VOICE

By ANNA PORTER

The voice is a key element in performance and can be used in many ways. In this introductory voice unit with instructor Anna Porter, students will explore how to thoughtfully communicate character, story and emotion vocally.

Lesson one focuses on the articulators and the importance and of speaking clearly on stage. Lesson two introduces students to the use of vocal variety with pitch, tone, rate and volume. In lesson three, students develop a character with background as well as design a puppet. Lesson four brings together the elements of voice studied in this unit to create vocal characterization.

Through this four lesson series, students will use journals, participate in class discussions and practice the elements taught by performing for their peers and as a class. Assessment tools include both informal assessment as well as a final puppet show performance.

## **1 - Articulation**

Students will learn the importance of articulation, how to identify the articulators in their mouth, and how to use good articulation when speaking.

## **2 - Vocal Variety**

Students will learn how to use vocal variety to communicate. Students will learn how to identify and apply Pitch, Tone, Rate, and Volume in performance.

## **3 - Character and Puppet Design**

Students will create a character and design a puppet for performance.

## **4 - Vocal Characterization and Accent**

Students will understand how they can use vocal variety and accents to create an interesting character voice.

# Standards Connections

## National Core Arts Standards

### Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work - Grade 6

TH:Cr1.1.6.a - Identify possible solutions to staging challenges in a drama/theatre work.

### Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work - Grade 7

TH:Cr1.1.7.a - Investigate multiple perspectives and solutions to staging challenges in a drama/theatre work.

### Organize and develop artistic ideas and work - Grade 6

TH:Cr2.1.6.b - Contribute ideas and accept and incorporate the ideas of others in preparing or devising drama/theatre work.

### Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation - Grade 6

TH:Pr5.1.6.a - Recognize how acting exercises and techniques can be applied to a drama/theatre work.

### Organize and develop artistic ideas and work - Grade 7

TH:Cr2.1.7.b - Demonstrate mutual respect for self and others and their roles in preparing or devising drama/theatre work.

### Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation - Grade 7

TH:Pr5.1.7.a - Participate in a variety of acting exercises and techniques that can be applied in a rehearsal or drama/theatre performance.

### Organize and develop artistic ideas and work - Grade 8

TH:Cr2.1.8.b - Share leadership and responsibilities to develop collaborative goals when preparing or devising drama/theatre work.

### Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation - Grade 8

TH:Pr5.1.8.a - Use a variety of acting techniques to increase skills in a rehearsal or drama/theatre performance.

### Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation - Grade HS Proficient

TH:Pr5.1.HS1.a - Practice various acting techniques to expand skills in a rehearsal or drama/theatre performance.

### Organize and develop artistic ideas and work - Grade HS Accomplished

TH:Cr2.1.HS2.b - Cooperate as a creative team to make interpretive choices for a drama/theatre work.

### Organize and develop artistic ideas and work - Grade HS Advanced

TH:Cr2.1.HS3.b - Collaborate as a creative team to discover artistic solutions and make interpretive choices in a devised or scripted drama/theatre work.

### Refine new work through play, drama processes and theatre experiences using critical analysis and experimentation - Grade 6

TH:Cr3.1.6.b - Identify effective physical and vocal traits of characters in an improvised or scripted drama/theatre work.

### Refine new work through play, drama processes and theatre experiences using critical analysis and experimentation - Grade 7

TH:Cr3.1.7.b - Develop effective physical and vocal traits of characters in an improvised or scripted drama/theatre work.

### Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work - Grade 7

TH:Pr6.1.7.a - Participate in rehearsals for a drama/theatre work that will be shared with an audience.

### Refine new work through play, drama processes and theatre experiences using critical analysis and experimentation - Grade 8

TH:Cr3.1.8.b - Refine effective physical, vocal, and physiological traits of characters in an improvised or scripted drama/ theatre work.

### Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work - Grade 8

TH:Pr6.1.8.a - Perform a rehearsed drama/theatre work for an audience.

### Refine new work through play, drama processes and theatre experiences using critical analysis and experimentation - Grade HS Proficient

TH:Cr3.1.HS1.b - Explore physical, vocal and physiological choices to develop a performance that is believable, authentic, and relevant to a drama/theatre work.

## Common Core

### Speaking and Listening

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.1 - Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.3 - Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.4 - Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

### Language

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.L.1 - Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.L.2 - Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

### Language

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.9-10.1 - Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.9-10.2 - Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

### Writing

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.4 - Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

## California VAPA Standards (2019)

### 6.TH:Cr1 Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work

6.TH:Cr1.a - Identify possible solutions to staging challenges in a drama/theatre work.

### 7.TH:Cr1 Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work

7.TH:Cr1.a - Investigate multiple perspectives and solutions to staging challenges in a drama/theatre work.

### 6.TH:Cr2 Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

6.TH:Cr2.b - Contribute ideas and accept and incorporate the ideas of others in preparing or devising drama/theatre work.

### **6.TH:Pr5 Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation.**

6.TH:Pr5.a - Recognize how acting exercises and techniques can be applied to a drama/theatre work.

### **7.TH:Cr2 Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.**

7.TH:Cr2.b - Demonstrate mutual respect for self and others and their roles in preparing or devising drama/theatre work.

### **7.TH:Pr5 Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation.**

7.TH:Pr5.a - Participate in a variety of acting exercises and techniques that can be applied in a rehearsal or drama/theatre performance.

### **8.TH:Cr2 Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.**

8.TH:Cr2.b - Share leadership and responsibilities to develop collaborative goals when preparing or devising drama/theatre work.

### **8.TH:Pr5 Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation.**

8.TH:Pr5.a - Use a variety of acting techniques to increase skills in a rehearsal or drama/theatre performance.

### **Prof.TH:Pr5 Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation.**

Prof.TH:Pr5.a - Practice various acting techniques to expand skills in a rehearsal or drama/theatre performance.

### **Acc.TH:Cr2 Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.**

Acc.TH:Cr2.b - Cooperate as a creative team to make interpretive choices for a drama/theatre work.

### **Adv.TH:Cr2 Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.**

Adv.TH:Cr2.b - Collaborate as a creative team to discover artistic solutions and make interpretive choices in a devised or scripted drama/theatre work.

### **6.TH:Cr3 Refine and complete artistic work.**

6.TH:Cr3.b - Identify effective physical and vocal traits of characters in a drama/theatre work.

### **7.TH:Cr3 Refine and complete artistic work.**

7.TH:Cr3.b - Develop effective physical and vocal traits of characters in an improvised or scripted drama/theatre work.

### **7.TH:Pr6 Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work.**

67TH:Pr6 - Create through improvisation a drama/theatre work that will be shared with an audience.

### **8.TH:Cr3 Refine and complete artistic work.**

8.TH:Cr3.b - Refine effective physical, vocal, and physiological traits of characters in an improvised or scripted drama/ theatre work.

### **8.TH:Pr6 Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work.**

8.TH:Pr6 - Perform a rehearsed, scripted scene from a drama/theatre work for an audience.

### **Prof.TH:Cr3 Refine and complete artistic work.**

Prof.TH:Cr3.b - Explore physical, vocal and physiological choices to develop a performance that is believable, authentic, and relevant to a drama/theatre work.

## **Florida Sunshine State Standards**

### **Critical Thinking & Reflection**

TH.912.C.2.1 - Explore and describe possible solutions to production or acting challenges and select the solution most likely to produce desired results.

### **Innovation, Technology & the Future**

TH.912.F.1.1 - Synthesize research, analysis, and imagination to create believable characters and settings.

### **Skills, Techniques & Processes**

TH.912.S.2.6 - Transfer acting and technical skills and techniques from one piece of dramatic text to another.

TH.912.S.2.8 - Strengthen acting skills by engaging in theatre games and improvisations.

TH.912.S.3.3 - Develop acting skills and techniques in the rehearsal process.

## **North Carolina Essential Standards**

### **Beginning High School Standards - Communication**

B.C.1.2 - Apply vocal elements of volume, pitch, rate, tone, articulation, and vocal expression.

### **Intermediate High School Standards - Communication**

I.C.1.2 - Apply vocal elements of volume, pitch, rate, tone, articulation, and vocal expression appropriately to theatrical texts, such as monologues and scenes.

### **Proficient High School Standards - Communication**

P.C.1.2 - Apply vocal elements of volume, pitch, rate, tone, articulation, and vocal expression to develop characters.

### **Proficient High School Standards - Aesthetics**

P.AE.1.1 - Analyze design concepts for aesthetic impact of technical elements.

### **Advanced High School Standards - Communication**

A.C.1.2 - Use voice to create character dialects.

### **Advanced High School Standards - Aesthetics**

A.AE.1.1 - Use technical knowledge and design skills to formulate designs for a specific audience.

### **Advanced High School Standards - Culture**

A.CU.1.2 - Exemplify a variety of theatrical forms, such as puppetry, musical theatre, and pantomime, from Non-Western cultures and a variety of historical periods through the creation of theatrical works.

## **Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Theatre Arts**

### **MS 117.211 LI - Foundations: Inquiry and Understanding**

C.1.D - develop an understanding of the mechanisms of vocal production.

### **MS 117.211 LI - Creative Expression: performance**

C.2.A - demonstrate safe use of the voice and body.

### **MS 117.211 LI - Critical evaluation and response**

C.5.A - identify and apply audience etiquette at all performances.

### **MS 117.212 LII - Foundations: Inquiry and Understanding**

B.1.B - develop and apply theatre preparation and warm-up techniques.

B.1.D - develop an increased understanding of the mechanisms of vocal production.

### **MS 117.212 LII - Creative Expression: performance**

B.2.A - demonstrate safe use of the voice and body.

B.2.E - apply knowledge of effective voice and diction techniques to express thoughts and feelings.

### **MS 117.213 LIII - Foundations: Inquiry and Understanding**

- B.1.B - explore preparation and warm-up techniques.
- B.1.D - demonstrate an increased understanding of the mechanisms of vocal production.
- B.1.E - apply knowledge of theatrical vocabulary and terminology.

### **MS 117.213 LIII - Creative Expression: performance**

- B.2.A - demonstrate safe use of the voice and body.

### **MS 117.213 LIII - Critical evaluation and response**

- B.5.A - understand and demonstrate appropriate audience etiquette at various types of live performances.

### **HS 117.315 LI - Foundations: Inquiry and Understanding**

- C.1.D - develop and practice effective voice and diction to express thoughts and feelings.
- C.1.F - demonstrate a working knowledge of the language of theatre such as stage terminology, elements of theatre, or theatrical conventions.

### **HS 117.315 LI - Creative Expression: performance**

- C.2.A - demonstrate safe use of the voice and body.
- C.2.C - employ effective voice and diction to express thoughts and feelings.
- C.2.F - create, write, and refine original monologues, improvisations, scenes, or vignettes that reflect dramatic structure to convey meaning to the audience through live performance or media forms.

### **HS 117.315 LI - Creative Expression: production**

- C.3.A - develop and practice technical theatre skills.

### **HS 117.316 LII - Foundations: Inquiry and Understanding**

- C.1.A - develop and practice theatre warm-up techniques.

### **HS 117.316 LII - Creative Expression: performance**

- C.2.A - model safe, appropriate techniques to allow for physical, vocal, and emotional expression.
- C.2.B - explore creativity as it relates to self and ensemble.
- C.2.C - demonstrate effective voice and diction to express thoughts and feelings.

### **HS 117.317 LIII - Foundations: Inquiry and Understanding**

- C.1.A - apply theatre preparation and warm-up techniques effectively.
- C.1.C - distinguish the proper techniques such as diction, inflection, and projection in the use of voice.

### **HS 117.317 LIII - Creative Expression: performance**

- C.2.A - employ safe, appropriate techniques to allow for physical, vocal, and emotional expression.

### **HS 117.318 LIV - Foundations: Inquiry and Understanding**

- C.1.A - create and demonstrate theatre preparation and warm-up techniques.
- C.1.C - model proper techniques such as diction, inflection, and projection in the use of effective voice.

### **HS 117.318 LIV - Creative Expression: performance**

- C.2.E - create individually or devise collaboratively imaginative scripts and scenarios.

- 10 - demonstrate safe and appropriate projection
- 11 - demonstrate how phrasing and pausing, intonation, rate and rhythm affect meaning
- 12 - create specific vocal sound effects
- 2 - apply effective breathing techniques
- 3 - recognize the effect of good posture on voice
- 4 - demonstrate knowledge of the parts of the body that are associated with voice production: vocal tracts, lungs, diaphragm, bronchi, trachea, larynx, uvula, pharynx, vocal folds
- 5 - recognize how the jaw, lips, tongue, teeth and velum play an important role in articulation
- 6 - perform exercises to relax and improve the movement of the articulators
- 7 - demonstrate knowledge of the terms intonation, pitch, projection, rate, volume, rhythm, resonance, pausing and phrasing in speech activities
- 8 - recognize the resonators' contribution to vocal quality
- 9 - use and practice levels of pitch

### **Speech Drama 20**

- 16 - communicate mood and emotion through voice
- 21 - apply previously learned speech skills to characterization and presentation

### **Speech Drama 30**

- 23 - use vocal variety in character development

### **Improvisation Drama 10**

- 1 - use warmup techniques for preparation of body, voice and mind
- 10 - demonstrate appropriate rehearsal methods
- 14 - discover how various emotions affect one vocally and physically
- 24 - select and use vocal techniques appropriate to a character
- 3 - maintain concentration during exercises
- 32 - sustain a character throughout a scene or exercise
- 9 - use appropriate stage directions

### **Acting Drama 30**

- 18 - use various vocal skills to enhance characterization

### **Playwriting - Drama 20**

- 3 - demonstrate understanding of script format

### **Improvisation/Acting Level III - Advanced**

- 26 - pick up cues effectively
- 32 - rehearse, polish and present text

### **Junior Goal II Objectives**

- become familiar with disciplines that enhance dramatic process
- become familiar with dramatic terminology and script format
- develop the body and voice as tools of communication

### **Junior Goal III Objectives**

- develop awareness of drama and theatre presentations as possible
- develop awareness of various conventions of theatre

### **Junior Orientation**

- communicate through use of voice and body
- demonstrate a willingness to take calculated and reasonable risks
- focus concentration on one task at a time
- generate imaginative and creative solutions to problems
- listen effectively

## **Alberta, Canada**

### **Speech Drama 10**

- 1 - demonstrate vocal relaxation and warmup techniques

meet deadlines and follow through on individual and group commitments

recognize the purposes of and participate in warmup activities

share ideas confidently with others

support positivity the work of others

work cooperatively and productively with all members of the class in pairs, small groups and large groups

### **Speech Level I - Beginning**

1 - speak spontaneously

2 - use vocal relaxation and warm-up techniques

3 - use effective breathing techniques

4 - use techniques of storytelling

5 - recognize the need to control and protect the voice

6 - use volume appropriate to situation

7 - create vocal sound effects to explore voice potential

8 - understand volume, articulation, projection, rate, pause, phrasing, pitch and intonation

### **Speech Level II - Intermediate**

10 - demonstrate effects of intonation, rate, pause and phrasing on the meaning of words

11 - use pitch to effect quality of voice production

13 - use voice to communicate mood and emotion

14 - use a variety of character voices

9 - use volume, articulation and projection to achieve clarity

### **Speech Level III - Advanced**

15 - demonstrate the effect of character on oral interpretation

17 - determine personal pitch, rate, volume, intonation and vocal qualities through critical listening

### **Improvisation/Acting Level I - Beginning**

1 - use warm-up techniques for preparation of body, voice and mind

10 - use essential story elements in spontaneous and planned scenes

12 - make logical choices within the boundaries of situation and character

9 - communicate a clear beginning, middle and end in spontaneous and planned scenes

### **Improvisation/Acting Level II - Intermediate**

17 - select and use language appropriate to a given character and situation

18 - use voice variety to enhance a character

21 - sustain a character throughout an exercise or scene

### **Junior Goal I Objectives**

develop a positive self-image

develop a sense of responsibility and commitment

develop self-confidence

develop self-discipline

develop the ability to initiate, organize and present a project within a given set of guidelines

develop the ability to interact effectively and constructively in a group process

develop the willingness to make a decision, act upon it and accept the results

explore and develop physical and vocal capabilities

extend the ability to think imaginatively and creatively

extend the ability to understand, accept and respect others-their rights, ideas, abilities and differences

strengthen powers of concentration

### **Technical Theatre - Levels I, II, III - Awareness**

1 - recognize the basic terminology associated with the component being studied

5 - demonstrate understanding of the various conventions of the components being studied

### **Technical Theatre - Levels I, II, III - Readiness**

6 - demonstrate understanding of the importance of planning and organization

### **Senior Goal I Objectives**

apply imaginative and creative thought to problem-solving situations

demonstrate a sense of inquiry and commitment, individually and to the group

demonstrate a sense of responsibility and commitment, individually and to the group

demonstrate the ability to considered decisions, act upon them and accept the results

demonstrate the ability to contribute effectively and constructively to the group process

demonstrate the ability to initiate, organize and present a project within a given set of guidelines

develop a positive and realistic self-image

develop a sense of inquiry and commitment to learning

extend physical and vocal capabilities

extend the ability to concentrate

increase self-confidence

increase self-discipline

### **Senior Goal II Objectives**

develop techniques that enhance vocal and physical communication

develop the ability to select appropriate physical and vocal expression for feelings, ideas and images

### **Senior Goal III Objectives**

develop an awareness of aesthetics in visual and performing arts

### **Orientation Drama 10**

concentrate on the task at hand

demonstrate behaviour appropriate to given circumstances

demonstrate effective use and management of time

demonstrate self-discipline, self-direction and a sense of responsibility

demonstrate willingness to challenge and extend oneself: physically, emotionally, intellectually and artistically

listen to self and others

make effective decisions or choices

positively support the work of others

share ideas confidently

solve problems imaginatively and creatively

work cooperatively and productively

## **British Columbia (2018)**

### **GRADE 6 - ARTS - Exploring and creating**

Intentionally select and apply materials, movements, technologies, environments, tools, and techniques by combining and arranging artistic elements, processes, and principles in art making

### **GRADE 6 - ARTS - Communicating and documenting**

Take creative risks to express feelings, ideas, and experiences

### **GRADE 7 - ARTS - Exploring and creating**

Create artistic works collaboratively and as an individual using ideas inspired by imagination, inquiry, experimentation, and purposeful play

Intentionally select and apply materials, movements, technologies, environments, tools, and techniques by combining and arranging artistic elements, processes, and principles in art making

#### **GRADE 7 - ARTS - Communicating and documenting**

Take creative risks to express feelings, ideas, and experiences

#### **GRADE 8 - ARTS - Exploring and creating**

Create artistic works collaboratively and as an individual using ideas inspired by imagination, inquiry, experimentation, and purposeful play

Intentionally select and apply materials, movements, technologies, environments, tools, and techniques by combining and arranging artistic elements, processes, and principles in art making

#### **GRADE 8 - ARTS - Communicating and documenting**

Take creative risks to express feelings, ideas, and experiences

#### **GRADE 9 - DRAMA - Exploring and creating**

Take creative risks to experience and express thoughts, emotions, and meaning

#### **GRADE 9 - DRAMA - Reasoning and reflecting**

Receive, offer, and apply constructive feedback

#### **GRADE 9 - DRAMA - Connecting and expanding**

Collaborate through reciprocal relationships during creative processes

Demonstrate respect for themselves, others, and the audience

#### **GRADE 10 - DRAMA - Explore and Create**

Develop a repertoire of dramatic skills and techniques through presentation or performance

Develop performance skills in a variety of contexts

Explore dramatic works through presentation or performance

#### **GRADE 10 - DRAMA - Reason and reflect**

Apply feedback to develop and refine ideas

Describe, analyze, and respond using drama-specific language

#### **GRADE 10 - DRAMA - Connect and expand**

Demonstrate respect for self, others, and the audience

#### **GRADE 11 - DRAMA - Explore and Create**

Create, rehearse, and refine dramatic works through collaborative and individual presentation or performance

Develop a repertoire of dramatic skills and techniques through presentation or performance

Develop and refine performance skills in a variety of contexts

Experiment with a range of materials, props, processes, and technologies to create and refine performances

#### **GRADE 11 - DRAMA - Reason and reflect**

Demonstrate awareness of self, others, and audience

Receive and apply constructive feedback to develop and refine ideas

#### **GRADE 11 - DRAMA - Connect and expand**

Demonstrate awareness of self, others, and audience

#### **GRADE 12 - DRAMA - Explore and Create**

Develop a repertoire of dramatic skills, vocabulary, and

techniques through presentation or performance

Develop and refine performance skills in a variety of contexts

#### **GRADE 12 - DRAMA - Reason and reflect**

Use self-reflection and awareness of audience to refine ideas

#### **GRADE 12 - DRAMA - Connect and expand**

Demonstrate respect for self, others, and audience

## **Ontario, Canada**

### **Grades 9 & 10 - Foundations - Responsible Practices**

C.3.2 - identify and apply the skills and attitudes needed to perform various tasks and responsibilities in producing drama works (e.g., use active listening and cooperative problem-solving skills; practise punctuality; use tact in suggesting changes and improvements; demonstrate willingness to accept criticism and build consensus)

C.3.3 - demonstrate an understanding of theatre and audience etiquette, in both classroom and formal performance contexts (e.g., as a performer: show willingness to take direction and behave appropriately towards other actors; as a viewer: demonstrate respect for performers and other audience members by paying attention, not interrupting or talking, and applauding when appropriate)

### **Grades 9 & 10 - Foundations - Concepts and Terminology**

C.1.2 - demonstrate an understanding of and use correct terminology to refer to the forms, elements, conventions, and techniques of drama, with a focus on ensemble drama works (e.g., chorus, protagonist, ingénue, supporting role, act, scene, climax, resolution, improvisation, mask, freeze-frame image)

C.1.3 - demonstrate an understanding of production roles, practices, and terminology when planning and presenting drama works (e.g., set design, costume design, lighting plot, light cue sheet, sound cue sheet, prompt book, set sketch, set model)

### **Grades 9 & 10 - Creating and Presenting - Presentation Techniques & Technologies**

A.3.1 - identify and use a variety of techniques to influence the audience in specific ways (e.g., have actors enter the performance space from the audience to increase audience connection to the drama; use blocking to focus audience attention on key characters or relationships between characters)

A.3.2 - use a variety of voice and movement techniques to support the creation of character or atmosphere during rehearsal (e.g., use voice and movement to suggest an airport, circus, or factory environment)

A.3.3 - use a variety of technological tools (e.g., light, sound, set design, props, models) to enhance the impact of drama works