

GIVEN CIRCUMSTANCES – OUTLINE

I. WHAT YOU MUST KNOW ABOUT THE PLAY

A. GIVEN CIRCUMSTANCES – (Facts derived from the text)

1. Historical Time
 - a) social
 - b) economic
 - c) political
 - d) religious/philosophical
 - e) technological
 - f) artistic/aesthetic
2. Chronological Time
 - a) century
 - b) year
 - c) season
 - d) day
 - e) hour/minute
3. Geographical Location
4. Environmental Conditions
5. Sensory Sources
 - a) temperature
 - b) smells
 - c) light
 - d) colors
 - e) textures
 - f) sounds
6. Surroundings
 - a) animate objects
 - b) inanimate objects

II. WHAT YOU MUST KNOW ABOUT THE CHARACTER

A. GIVEN CIRCUMSTANCES -- (Facts derived from the text)

1. What do I say? *about myself / about others*
2. What do I do?
3. What do other characters say about me?
4. What does the playwright say about me?

B. BIOGRAPHY

1. Sex
2. Age
3. Height and weight
4. Color of hair, eyes, skin
5. Posture
6. Rhythm
7. Defects

C. SOCIOLOGY

1. Social Class
2. Occupation
 - a) type of work
 - b) hours
 - c) attitude toward work
3. Education
 - a) level/amount
 - b) favorite/least favorite subjects
 - c) interests/aptitudes
4. Home Life
 - a) parents living?
 - b) parents divorced?
 - c) quality of parents' relationship
 - d) vices of parents
 - e) size of family - nuclear and extended
 - f) mores/ethics
 - g) habits/family customs
5. Religious Beliefs
6. Political Beliefs
7. Race/ Nationality
8. Place in the Community / Social Status w/in Class
9. Amusements/ Hobbies

D. PSYCHOLOGY

1. Sexual Orientation/ Passions/ Standards
2. Ambitions
3. Frustrations/ Disappointments
4. Temperament
 - a) easy-going/choleric
 - b) optimistic/pessimistic
5. Obsessions
6. Phobias
7. Inhibitions
8. Prejudices
9. Talents/ Abilities/ Skills

III. WHAT YOU MUST KNOW ABOUT THE SCENE

A. GENERAL STRUCTURE

1. What Is the Main Conflict of the Play?
2. What Is the Main Conflict of the Scene?
3. How Does the Scene's Conflict Relate to the Play's Conflict?
4. What Is the Crisis? - (the moment before the conflict must be resolved)
5. What is the Climax of the Scene?

B. SPECIFIC STRUCTURE

1. Make a SCORE of the scene

- a) break down the scene into beats
- 2. In Each Beat Answer the Following
 - a) what do I want? (intention)
 - b) how do I get what I want? (tactic)
 - c) what is in my way? (obstacle)
- C. IMAGES (pictures of specific circumstances supplied by the imagination which leads to action)
- D. INNER MONOLOGUE – (what I'm thinking when I'm not talking)
- E. SUBTEXT – (what I am thinking while I'm talking)
- F. PERSONALIZATION – (relating to things/identification)
 - 1. Parallel situations drawn from the character's own life.
 - 2. Emotional Memory
 - 3. Sense Memory
 - 4. Let's Pretend – Stanislavski's "magic if"
What would I do if I were in this character's situation.