



# MODERN SHAKESPEARE: DIRECTOR'S NOTEBOOK

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# Modern Shakespeare: Director's Notebook

Mrs. Kelly Dutro - English 9 and 10 - Spring 2017

Congratulations! You are the director for an exciting new rendition of one of Shakespeare's most beloved plays! But first, you must modernize the play in your director's notebook. This may be a poster, a video, a slide show or prezi, or a traditional notebook. You may work with another person, or you may work independently. The requirements for each are outlined below:

REQUIREMENTS FOR ONE DIRECTOR	REQUIREMENTS FOR TWO DIRECTORS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pitch for Modernization - <b>20 points</b></li><li>• Three Quote Analyses - <b>30 points</b></li><li>• One Monologue or Soliloquy - <b>50 points</b></li><li>• Three Additional Components - <b>150 points</b></li></ul> <p><i>Total Points Possible: 250</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pitch for Modernization - <b>20 points</b></li><li>• Five Quote Analyses - <b>50 points</b></li><li>• Two Monologues or Soliloquies - <b>100 points</b></li><li>• All Additional Components - <b>250 points</b></li></ul> <p><i>Total Points Possible: 420</i></p>

## ADDITIONAL COMPONENTS (3 FOR ONE DIRECTOR, FIVE FOR TWO DIRECTORS)

- Set Designs - Minimum One Act (one set per scene)
- Stage Directions - Minimum One Act
- Prop List - Minimum 10 Props
- Cast List - Minimum 5 Characters
- Wardrobe - Minimum 5 Characters

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## Project Objectives

### OBJECTIVES FOR REQUIRED COMPONENTS

Students will be able to:

- Creatively interpret Shakespeare's language by performing a monologue or soliloquy in a manner that conveys a complex character's voice.
- Select the most important quote from each act explaining how each quote connects to character development or theme.
- Synthesize all components of their adaptations of the Shakespearean play by writing a pitch for modernization.

### OBJECTIVES FOR OPTIONAL COMPONENTS

Students will be able to:

- Demonstrate mastery of reading comprehension by visualizing and creating the set designs for one act of the play.
- Demonstrate mastery of reading comprehension by visualizing and writing the stage directions for one act of the play.

- Demonstrate mastery of analysis by selecting ten props to symbolize the recurring concepts of the play and by explaining how they contribute to character development or the overall theme of the play
- Analyze character development and the human condition by comparing and contrasting the five major characters to the roles of modern day actors and actresses
- Analyze character development by designing wardrobes for the five major characters, specifically explaining how each character's costumes reflect whether they are round or flat and their development over the course of the play

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## Component Descriptions

As the director of a low-budget play, you're in need of investors to help fund the play. In order to persuade them to give you money, you must have a thorough description of the different components of the play. While this may be presented in a variety of ways, it must include the following components:

### **REQUIRED: PITCH FOR MODERNIZATION**

This will be a one hundred to two hundred word description of your plans for modernizing the play. You must include the setting (when and where the play takes place), any adaptations required for the play to still make sense, and an explanation of how the traditional plot will still fit the updated setting.

### **REQUIRED: THREE-FIVE QUOTE ANALYSES**

To help your potential investors understand why your play is a literary masterpiece, you must pull three to five\* of the most significant quote and write an eleven-sentence analytical paragraph expressing why the quote is a keystone of the play, its significance to the theme of the play, and its significance to your modernization of the play.

\*Three quotes for single directors, five quotes for two directors.

### **REQUIRED: ONE MONOLOGUE OR SOLILOQUY PER DIRECTOR**

While you are not expected to memorize\* your monologue or soliloquy, you *are* expected to perform it in front of the potential investors\*\* the way it would be performed in front of your future audience. That means that you should dress for the part, bring along any necessary props, and speak in the manner your modernized character would speak.\*\*\*

\*Extra credit for those who do memorize their monologue or soliloquy.

\*\*The potential investors is the rest of the class. You may perform this live in front of the class, or you may record it and play it as a video.

\*\*\*You must still use Shakespeare's original language, but you may adjust the tone of the speech.

### **ADDITIONAL: SET DESIGNS - MINIMUM ONE ACT (ONE SET PER SCENE)**

One of the more expensive challenges for putting on a play is the stage designs. Things like special effects, moving pieces, trap doors, lighting, and fog machines cost money, and the potential investors will want to ensure that will see a return on every cent they spend on your play. Since each act has multiple scenes, you will need a miniature model of the sets for each

scene in only one act of the play. Be prepared to explain how you will quickly transition between sets during your play.

#### **ADDITIONAL: STAGE DIRECTIONS - MINIMUM ONE ACT**

Since Shakespeare provides very little stage direction for the actors in his play, you will need to write the stage directions for one full act of the play so your potential investors can picture the play in their mind's eye. To do this, you will describe the actors' physical movements on stage including how they die, speak, walk, run, fight, etc. Keep in mind that you cannot change Shakespeare's original dialogue, only the stage directions.

#### **ADDITIONAL: PROP LIST - MINIMUM 10 PROPS**

Props are critical components to Shakespeare's plays because they help the audience to understand what is going on. Therefore, your props must symbolize the abstract concepts of the play. Your prop list must include a picture or drawing of each prop, and a conceptual analogy explaining the metaphor behind the prop. You will use the conceptual analogy sentence frame below:

**Abstract concept** is like **prop** because **reason one**, **reason two**, and **reason three**.

Check out the example of the conceptual analogy sentence frame in action below:

**Friendship** is like a **driver's license** because **it will expire if you do not renew it**, **it takes skill to obtain**, and **it requires you to pass a test**.

#### **ADDITIONAL: CAST LIST - MINIMUM 5 CHARACTERS**

Since you are asking potential investors for a specific amount of money, it is important that you know just how much money you will need to spend on your cast. Different actors and actresses expect different salaries for their services, and you will need to factor that into your proposal. Your cast list must include a picture of the actor or actress along with two main idea chunks explaining how one of their past roles is similar to the role you would like them to play in your Shakespeare play.

#### **ADDITIONAL: WARDROBE - MINIMUM 5 CHARACTERS**

As a high school student, you already understand that the clothes you wear are part of your self-expression. Likewise, the clothes your actors wear while portraying your characters will also represent the changing and unchanging characteristics of their personalities. Therefore, you will design the wardrobes for the five most important characters of the play. These wardrobes will represent the characters development (or lack thereof) throughout the entire play. That means that round characters will have multiple costumes to represent their character development, and flat characters will wear the same costume or type of costume throughout the entire play.