

Name: _____ Date: _____

Script or Scraps? Sophomore Playwriting Challenge

Subtext, non-linear structure, and stagecraft terminology. These 10 items challenge students to apply dramatic theory to diverse theatrical scenarios.

1. A playwright decides to start a play 'In Media Res' during a high-stakes heist. What is the primary analytical advantage of this structural choice?

- A. It provides a slow, methodical introduction to the setting.
- B. It forces the audience to piece together character motivations through immediate action.
- C. It eliminates the need for any climax or falling action later in the script.
- D. It ensures the play follows a strictly chronological timeline without flashbacks.

2. In contemporary drama, when a character says one thing but means another, the playwright is utilizing _____, which reveals the internal conflict underneath the dialogue.

- A. Monologue
- B. Exposition
- C. Subtext
- D. Soliloquy

3. True or False: In a play script, 'Parentheticals' refer to the long descriptions of the set and lighting found at the beginning of an act.

- A. True
- B. False

4. Which of these is an example of an 'Inciting Incident' in a script about a corporate whistleblower?

- A. The protagonist receives a promotion and a pay raise.
- B. The protagonist discovers a shredded document revealing illegal activity.
- C. The protagonist goes to sleep after a long day at the office.
- D. The protagonist reflects on their childhood in a dream sequence.

5. If a playwright includes the instruction [Beat] in the middle of a heated argument, they are calling for a _____ to create tension or shift the emotional energy.

- A. Musical interlude
- B. Prop change
- C. Character exit
- D. Brief silence or pause

6. True or False: A 'protagonist' in a sophisticated 10th-grade level play must always be a morally 'good' person to be effective.

- A. True
- B. False

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7. In August Strindberg's naturalistic style, a playwright might focus on 'Unitary Setting.' What is the primary purpose of keeping the entire play in one room?

- A. To save money on the production budget.
- B. To heighten the sense of claustrophobia and psychological pressure on the characters.
- C. To allow characters to exit and enter the stage more frequently.
- D. To encourage the audience to focus on the lighting design rather than the plot.

8. A monologue delivered by a character alone on stage to express their inner thoughts directly to the audience is known as a _____, a technique famously used by Sophocles and Shakespeare.

- A. Duologue
- B. Aside
- C. Soliloquy
- D. Prologue

9. When writing stage directions, which term would a playwright use to tell an actor to move toward the audience?

- A. Upstage
- B. Stage Left
- C. Downstage
- D. Center Stage

10. True or False: 'Stasis' in a play refers to the period of chaos that occurs right after the climax.

- A. True
- B. False