

THE ELEMENTS OF DRAMA

FOCUS

Focus is the frame directing the attention of the audience & between performers. It is also the concentration and belief of the performer.

- How might actors position themselves on the stage to ensure one character has focus? (Describe or draw)

- How might a group of actors position themselves on the stage to ensure their group has focus? (Describe or draw)

- Place two actors on the stage – one in focus, and one out of focus:

- Brainstorm ways other than stage positioning that an actor can have focus – think about other staging elements such as lights or sound:

- How might focus be directed to:
 - An object -
 - A space -
 - An idea -

MOOD

Mood is the overall feeling or emotion that a performance may evoke.

- How might you describe the mood of the following settings:

Setting	Mood
Canberra City	
A Christmas Wonderland	
A Haunted House	
A Soccer Game	
A Taylor Swift Concert	
A Wedding	

Use the below word bank to help you:

Mood:

excited, scared, emotional, upset, distressed, tense, thrilled, happy, over the moon, devastated, in awe, affectionate, humourous, frightened, fearful, full of adrenaline...

SPACE

Space is the way the performance area is used to communicate meaning.

- Brainstorm ways actors could use space – consider their grouping (relationships with each other), levels and proximity:

- Suggest a scene or action that suits the following use of space:

2 actors on opposite sides of the stage, nothing between them	
A group of actors huddled and crouched on the floor	
A set with a balcony or raised element	
A set with minimal props, where the actors are relying on audience	

- What props and scenery might you use to fill the space for:

A production about high school students	
A production about vampires and witches	
A production set in the future	
A production set in a hospital	
A production set at a beachside house	

TENSION

Tension is the suspense that holds an audience's attention as a performance unfolds. The release of tension may have a comic or a dramatic effect.

- Suggest an example of tension of relationships:
- Suggest an example of the tension of surprise:
- Suggest an example of the tension of mystery:
- Why do you think tension is important?
- Do you think you can have a production or performance without any tension?
- How could tension be created on stage? Consider all production elements...

TIME

Time is the word that describes the fictional time or setting in a dramatic performance OR the timing (pace and rhythm) of one moment to the next in the drama.

- Brainstorm some ways you can tell the time of a production (consider setting/era AND pace and rhythm):

- How might a production show a change in time? (Consider lighting and sound in your ideas)

- Why would time be important in a production?

- Highlight or circle what a suitable pace (timing) would be for the following scenes:

A robbery	Faster	Slower
A proposal	Faster	Slower
A rollercoaster	Faster	Slower
A football game	Faster	Slower
A funeral	Faster	Slower