

Handout 2: Characterization & Blocking in POI

Characterization Exercises

- * **Text, Subtext & Physicalization:** For each character in your POI, identify the subtext and physicalization for each line. Write this down so you can reference it while practicing.
 - Text: What is explicitly stated by the author and written on the page.
 - Subtext: What the character is actually thinking and feeling, as interpreted by you. Write from your character's point of view.
 - Physicalization: How you convey the subtext through action, including body movement and posture, hand gestures, tone of voice, vocal fillers, facial expressions.

- * **Build Character Objectives & Tactics:** Write your character's objective and tactics for both the page and the entire piece.
 - Objective: What your character needs or wants. The objective should be written starting with "I want.../ I need..."
 - Tactics: Actions your character will take to achieve their objective. Be as descriptive and specific as possible. Use action words that are easy to act. (Search "tactic verbs" online for ideas).

- * **Live As Your Character(s):** Find a teammate or friend who is willing to help you. Have a conversation with them acting as your character. Sit in a casual location and have them ask you as many questions as they can, from simple to complex. For example, "Do you have any siblings?" "What's your biggest fear?" "What are you most proud of accomplishing in your life?"

Creating Environment/ Blocking

Answer the following questions for each character in your program. Keep your answers in mind as you practice performing and make environment decisions.

What time is it?

What time period is it?

What place am I in?

What locale (i.e. city, town) am I in?



Where is my home?

Do I feel comfortable at home? Why or why not?

Do I live alone or with others?

What is the atmosphere of the place I'm in? Describe it and find a picture that matches your description.

How did I end up here?

What am I going to do after this?

What's the occasion for me being here?

What is my relationship to the place I'm in?

How do I feel about being here?

Are there other people around me?