

JEFFREY R. WILSON
LIGHTNING THEATER

Objectives: This activity is designed to help you think about plays in performance, and how a text can have multiple possible performances.

Assignment: In a small group, perform the below passage from *Hamlet*.

Instructions: Your group will get a “vision” for your performance from your director, and it will be up to you to figure out the acting and performance choices that effectively convey that vision to your audience.

This has to happen fast: you’ve only got about 5 minutes to rehearse.

1. Quick: Get in your group and cast (1) a Hamlet, (2) an Ophelia, (3) a Claudius, and (4) a Polonius.
2. Hurry: Discuss what each actor needs to do to convey the director’s vision that you’ve been given.
3. Fast: Rehearse your scene. Run it through a few times.

POLONIUS. Ophelia, walk you here. Gracious, so please you,
We will bestow ourselves. Read on this book;
That show of such an exercise may colour
Your loneliness. I hear him coming: let's withdraw, my lord.

Exeunt KING CLAUDIUS and POLONIUS

Enter HAMLET

HAMLET. To be, or not to be, that is the question,
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,
And by opposing end them?