

POST SECONDARY THEATER LESSON PLAN

***Lesson Overview:**

- This lesson explores the implications of developing a musical from a literary text or an historical event, and includes suggestions for immersing students into the creative process of building a musical.

Length of Lesson:

- Five 45-minute periods

Materials:

- Computers
- Wordpress.org
- Digital video recorders
- Novels

Instructional Objectives:

- gain insight into ways a musical can be unified into a cohesive production.
- recognize the potential of literary sources and/or historical events as inspiration for musicals.
- recognize aspects of the identification between themes and forms of musicals and the cultural climate of a time period.
- exercise collaborative problem-solving techniques.
- broaden research experience in diverse media.
- strengthen process skills of reading, writing, explicating.

Procedure:

- Remind students that several of Rodgers and Hammerstein's greatest Broadway hits were built from the framework of literary texts. Explain to students that their challenge in this assignment is to assess the possibilities for turning a designated text into a successful musical.
- Tell students that literary selection often used to help illuminate some aspect of an event or time period, to deepen understanding of the emotional and psychological impact of historical events and the consequences that follow.
- Inform the students that a well thought out, catchy, relatable way to advertise and sell your musical idea is imperative to collecting the funding to produce it.

Assignment:

- Have the students break into groups of four and choose a novel they wish to turn into a musical. Students will write a brief synopsis of their musical based on the books they chose. Each group must then prepare a 2 min. movie trailer highlighting the main idea

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of their musical. The students must act out scenes and record them with a digital video recorder and create audio commentary to emphasize important details of the movie trailer for the musical. Using Sprout Builder, a new web service that allows fast creation of Flash media content, students can use their audio and video components to build a movie Sprout. Each Sprout would simply be embedded in a WordPress.org post, accompanied by a review and/or ratings area, and the group's synopsis. **

Evaluation:

- Have each student in the class individually write critiques on each group's synopsis and movie trailer. The best movie trailer and synopsis will become the class project and the students will spend the rest of the semester writing a short script to act out for the final semester play.

*http://www.sites4teachers.com/links/redirect.php?url=http://www.teach-nology.com/teachers/lesson_plans/arts/drama/

** <http://performancing.com/bloggng-tools/48-unique-ways-use-wordpress>