

CREATING AN ORIGINAL SHOW

Decide on Topic, Characters, and Basic Plot

1 You and your students will choose the topic. This may be a curriculum topic or an original idea that comes from free writing. Once the topic is chosen, you and your students will create a basic plot and some main characters.

Divide into Scenes

2 You will expand the story, create an outline, and divide it into scenes. Students will divide into small groups, and each small group will choose a scene.

Write

3 In their small groups, your students will write the dialogue for their scene. If you are writing music for your show, lyrics will also be written here. Remember your students will be memorizing this script, so you will do the final edits to make sure it is well written and the right length.

Auditions

4 The show is now complete, and it's time for the students to audition for the roles. They will audition using the script that was created from the dialogue (and lyrics, if it's a musical). You may skip this step and assign the roles if you want to speed things up.

Learn the Show

5 The students will learn the show and rehearse lines and music. Students will develop and assess their singing technique. Make sure they learn their lines correctly, it's easier to memorize if one learns it accurately and does not have to go back and fix mistakes.

Acting

6 The students will become the actors: relating to each other on stage, creating a character, and staying in character the entire time on stage, and developing and assessing their acting technique. Kids are used to using their imagination and pretending when they play with their friends, so you're taking something they instinctively know how to do and organizing it to be on stage.

Staging

7 You and the students will design the traffic patterns, dance moves, entrances, and exits on stage. Staging is modified to fit what your class can handle. If a class falls apart with a lot of stage direction, you can minimize stage movement.

Putting It Together

8 Running the show: run-throughs and dress rehearsals. Try to allow the students to run the show without you calling out directions while they're running the show. Instead write down your corrections and once they are finished, then share your notes.

The Performance

9 The moment of truth, what you have been working toward. This is the day you sit back and watch your students perform. They are fully in charge and will do an amazing job. Be sure to videotape the performance.

Reflection and Follow-Up

10 Learning from the experience and where to go from here. Watch the video together and discuss. Plan the next production, draw pictures, and make thank you cards for those who helped you with your show. It's nice to have some follow up because some students may feel like a bit of a letdown once the show is over.

