

Appendix

Preparing a Monologue

1. If you have a choice, choose a monologue that you like. It's no fun working on a monologue that you don't connect to in some way.
2. Read through the monologue several times and ask yourself the following questions:
 - A. "To whom am I talking?"
 - **Myself:** If you are talking to yourself, you need to think about those times that you actually do talk to yourself. Find a real reason that you might need to talk to yourself.
 - **The audience:** If you are talking to the audience, you need to make eye contact with them and communicate directly to them—don't look at the floor or ceiling. What is their relationship to you?
 - **Another character.** If you are talking to another character, you need to imagine the person and keep him clearly in your mind's eye at all times as you speak. Who and where are they? Imagine his/her reactions. Remember, monologues are really dialogues in which the other person doesn't speak.
 - B. "What do I 'want' in the monologue? What is my goal?"

Some answers might be "I want to convince the audience that Jesus was an amazing man." Or "I want to ask her to go to church with me."
 - C. "How will I achieve my goal? How will I get what I want?"

Some answers might be "By telling them all these amazing stories about Jesus before they get up and leave the room" or "By convincing her that it changed the way I live."
3. Break down the monologue into a beginning, middle and end. Practice it in sections.
4. Memorize the monologue thoroughly.
5. Practice by yourself until you are comfortable.
6. Practice the monologue for a trusted friend who will give constructive feedback.

Monologue Presentation Do's and Don'ts — A Check List

Before the Presentation:

DO dress in appropriate wardrobe — this wardrobe should subtly reveal (suggest) a character's personality — or simple non-obtrusive clothing.

DON'T wear clothing that will get in the way of the character, such as heavy, baggy, or tight clothing, or your coat, hat, or heavy boots.

DO MEMORIZE THE MONOLOGUE THOROUGHLY. The character stops to think, THE ACTOR DOESN'T — Idea pauses, not memory stops.

DON'T JUST MEMORIZE THE WORDS! ACTING IS NOT JUST MEMORIZING WORDS!
You are not just talking or reading a script. YOU ARE ACTING. Don't be a slave to the script, BE THE CHARACTER.

DO PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE. Consider every rehearsal a performance!

During the Presentation:

DO BE THE CHARACTER. BE HONEST AND REAL IN THE CHARACTER.

DON'T DROP OUT OF CHARACTER and DON'T say "sorry," if you make a mistake.

DON'T ask if you may start again, just start again.

DO a PREPARATION BEAT: giving yourself a moment or beat to get into character.

Prepare the MOMENT BEFORE: the imagined action or thought right before the scene or monologue begins. For example, a "moment before" for Mary coming from the tomb to tell others about what she found would be *having run a mile or more to find them*. She would be out of breath, etc.

DO speak loudly and clearly. Speak so you can be heard. DON'T mumble. Pay particular attention to the size of the stage or space and acoustical sounds.

DO talk to the other character(s) in the scene.

DO place the other character(s) in front of you. Avoid turning too far to the side.

DON'T use an actual person in the room as the character you are talking to.

DO establish a strong and believable locale (place). Move around in this "where".

DON'T sit during the monologue. Sit ONLY if ABSOLUTELY required by the monologue.

DO move (have appropriate movement for your character).

DON'T wander, don't shuffle, but also don't stand still. Move with purpose. If you have a complete character, he or she won't wander about.

From Acting is Action—A Basic Workbook for the Student-Actor by Philip Rayher (Stagecoach Publishing)