

SOHL Conference  
Sunday Oct 4, 2009  
1:00pm - 3:00pm  
Sedona Room, Best Harvest Inn (1715 Idylwyld)

## “Words and Beyond: Expressing Yourself Through Drama”

- Communicate through Mask and Drama
- Using the body to show ideas & emotions
- Creating trust in the group, risk taking that increases gradually
- Using imagination to explore concepts, symbol and metaphor

**INTRODUCE** myself to the group & the workshop

### **WARM UPS:**

#### Name Game with Gesture

- Gesture with your name, we repeat the gesture
- Mingle, find a partner
- Put your gestures together – call & response
- Add music “Stand By Me”, move every 8 beats

#### Trust Balance

- Partner, hold wrists, find balance, eyes closed
- Groups of four, six, or maybe 8

#### Triangles

- Choose 2 others in the circle, make an equilateral triangle with them

#### Discuss Warm Ups, Purpose (small groups)

- Share large group

### **EXPRESSING CONCEPTS:**

Small group: discuss SOHL, what defines the group, passions, barriers/concerns

#### Tableaux

- Create 3 tableaux – 1) passion that defines language teachers; 2) barriers or concerns you face; 3) future hope for languages
- Add transitions
- Add music (vol II - Whales, Checkerboard, Weavers, Pharoah’s Waltz, Pastorele, Carribean Leaps)
- Show and discuss ways to use this kind of activity with your classes – how does the use of **symbol** deepen understanding? What about adding captions?
- Ask one group to show again & demonstrate **Inner Voices**
- **Half group tableau** add in one at a time, when tapped speak out in whatever language you wish to use. What will be our caption or theme?

Ex: 1) Challenges of teaching and 2) Joys of teaching

you can add to/join another or work in isolation – but we are all connected in some way to one another

be aware of a “front” to the scene

observers watch and “read it”, will be given a chance to describe what you see and think and feel while watching

use music

## **MASK & BODY LANGUAGE**

Show examples of mask and explain where to get them or how to make:

- White neutral
- Papier mache (1/2 and full)
- Character masks

Respect for the mask – putting on the character, taking off the character, not touching

Demonstrate body language & seeing the face

Ask for volunteers to turn around in character with a direction, ie: to taunt, to beg, to flirt, be in charge, shy

Talk about where we naturally put our center of gravity to show power and status

Select a mask, sit with it, stand, then walk – what are you thinking? Inner voice?

### **“Characters on a Bench” improv**

- One enters, does something
- Next enters, sees the first and reacts in some way
- First one finds way to exit – keep it going

### **“Use of Narrator”**

- Determine a story that will be told in a language of choice, keep it simple
- The others, in mask, help bring it to life

### **“Inner Voices”**

- Mask characters are engaged in doing something else with another person
- One speaks the real thinking going on using language of choice.

## **Closing Comments**

We understand concepts and express ourselves in many ways. We communicate through language of the body as well. We can tap into subtleties and symbol through drama.

What ways this may be useful, applicable in class, various situations.