

Pre- & Post-Show Sessions

Purposes of Pre-Show Sessions (over time)

Help the audience enter the “world” of the play by:

- Making personal connections to key topics and/or themes
- Learning about the setting, characters, dialogue, and plot of the play
- Actively exploring theater elements that will help them engage with the play
- Learning about the work of the artistic team that mounts a play

Guide attendees to understand “audience etiquette”.

Address adult subject matter for students, which also may be potentially offensive to certain community groups, to diffuse surprises that might disrupt the audience’s engagement in the play and affect the performance.

Provide ways for students and other attendees (such as English language learners) to track character arcs/narrative through-lines as they watch the play.

Purposes of Post-Show Sessions (over time)

Help the audience members process their experience of, interpret, and critique the play.

Clarify any confusions – e.g. what is revealed; ambiguous endings; character motivations.

Help attendees to make and share personal connections to the characters, plot, and topics/themes in the play.

Actively explore the play’s themes through theater-based activities to deepen attendees understanding of them.