

THEATER-MAKING AT HOME

GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE

EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



RANT & RAVE

NAME:

SCHOOL:

TEACHER:

PERIOD:

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RANT & RAVE



PHOTO COURTESY PIXABAY.

When people venture onto social media, or websites and online applications that allow users to create and upload content, it is often with the intent of sharing ideas and viewpoints. A user's post, tweet, blog or vlog will often express their feelings, opinions, thoughts, and even their state of being, in that particular moment of time. To get their point across, social media users will sometimes convey their message in the form of a *Rant* or a *Rave*.

Rants and raves are spirited, strong and impassioned commentaries on a topic of interest, a feeling, or a present condition. When we are confused and searching for answers, or when we are pleased and relieved with our current situation, we often feel a need to share with others, and sometimes even with strangers. Both rants and raves are common examples of people using theater skills in their daily lives. By writing and delivering comedic or dramatic rants and raves, one is crafting and performing a *monologue*.

Check out Geffen Playhouse Theater-Making at Home *Superhero Monologue* or *Ode to an Object Monologue* Projects for more information on crafting a monologue.

<https://tinyurl.com/theatermaking>

In the sharing of our experiences on social media, written with great enthusiasm and vigor, we find those who agree or disagree with our position. We start discussions about a topic and discover ways to connect with others over vast distances. Sometimes our social media rants and raves become *viral*, content that spreads rapidly and widely between many social media users.

Social media is a place where various platforms cater to the sharing of rants and raves. You may recognize popular review sites like *Yelp* or *RateMyProfessor*, or even platforms like TikTok, Instagram, and Twitter that are filled with epic rants and raves about everything from meals and music, to sports and politicians. Any topic that one can hold a strong opinion about, you will find passionate and animated rants and raves throughout social media.

RANT & RAVE

In this project, you will brainstorm, craft and perform a dramatic or comedic Rant or Rave about a topic of your choice, in the style and format of a social media post.

NOTE: Although social media is an inspiration for this Theater-Making at Home Project, you DO NOT need to be on social media, nor do you need to be familiar or have an account, to participate in this activity.

Follow the steps and get creative! Remember, creating involves exploring what you want to say, selecting how to best express your thoughts, and revising what you have created to communicate clearly and powerfully. Give yourself space to come up with bold ideas, look them over, adjust, and keep going.

Though these steps have been designed to guide you, there is no wrong or right way to be creative. As you continue to create in the future, feel free to explore other techniques and styles. What is most important is using your voice to tell your story. HAVE FUN!



We encourage you to use any of our theater warm-up videos with this packet! You can find them along with other projects here: <https://tinyurl.com/theatermaking>

SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS



PHOTO COURTESY PIXABAY.

One important aspect of creating and sharing content on social media, including information, images, memes, and rants and raves, is the use of visuals, including video edits, filters, stickers, emojis and hashtags (#). You will craft your Rant or Rave with the social media formats in mind.

- You will construct your comedic or dramatic Rant or Rave in the style of a 'Tweet'. This means you will **only be allowed to use 280 characters** in the creation of your Rant/Rave.
- Then you will perform your Rant or your Rave in the style of an Instagram or TikTok post. This means you will have a **limit of 1 minute**.
- **Remember to be creative!**

Each social media platform has their own characteristics that make them unique. Below are some examples of posts that encapsulate social media Rants and Raves. *Reminder, you do not need to be familiar with social media or have an account to participate in this activity.*

SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

TWITTER

Limit of 280 characters per tweet, can include an image and/or #hashtags

https://tinyurl.com/y5mnvkle	@gretathunberg
https://tinyurl.com/yxrofoug	@cableknitjumper
https://tinyurl.com/yy8s4lnj	@outsmartedmommy
https://tinyurl.com/y3mgu25q	@aparnapkin
https://tinyurl.com/y564bb9q	@byclintedwards

TIKTOK

Up to 59 second long video; edits, emojis, stickers, #hashtags, and music

https://youtu.be/RF_FHpgGzgk	@christines_snaps
https://youtu.be/VSM6XyWRf1A	@iamtabithabrown
https://tinyurl.com/yxom7s6h	@realjchengzhang
https://tinyurl.com/y2a6cvjo	@cartnarcs
https://tinyurl.com/y29abe6k	@cookingwithlynja

INSTAGRAM

Up to 1 minute long video; filters, emojis, stickers, and #hashtags

www.instagram.com/tv/B8rrUtqHPiL	@rachel.cargle
www.instagram.com/p/CEKReH1gUyq	@aoc
www.instagram.com/tv/B8IXJUBIELm	@bretmanrock
www.instagram.com/p/CFW6QapAAU9	@ninaneshbitt
www.instagram.com/p/CGTJFRTgzna	@christines_snapss

HASHTAGS (#)

As Rebecca Hiscott explains in her article *The Beginner's Guide to the Hashtag*, "if you're a social media novice, hashtags—those short links preceded by the pound sign (#)—may seem confusing and unnecessary. But they are integral to the way we communicate online.

On Twitter, the pound sign (or hash) turns any word or group of words that directly follow it into a searchable link. This allows you to organize content and track discussion topics based on those keywords.

Hashtags can be used to complement photos shared on Instagram and help you discover new accounts and pick up followers. Some hashtags were created specifically for Instagram photo challenges—#ThrowbackThursday, for example, encourages users to post retro photos."

HATE SPEECH

Although one of the best features of the internet is the idea of lack of censorship, the thought and practice of hate speech simply has no place in society. Oxford Dictionary defines *hate speech* as "abusive or threatening speech or writing that expresses prejudice against a particular group, especially on the basis of race, religion, or sexual orientation."

In your attempt at crafting a strong Rant or even a playfully spirited Rave, we ask that you refrain from using any prejudice, violence, bigotry, or animus towards any particular group or culture in your writing. For more information on how to combat hate speech, please follow the link to the U.N.'s Strategy & Plan of Action at <https://tinyurl.com/y3vowqhk>.

ACTIVITY

RANT & RAVE

A Rant can be thought of as a style of critique, while a Rave could be considered praise or approval. For this project, you will deliver your point of view about a topic of your choice in the form of a comedic or dramatic Rant or Rave.

Answer all the questions below. Based on your responses, choose then to write a Rant or a Rave.

What are 3-5 things that make you smile?

List 3-5 topics that confuse you.

What are 3-5 things you are grateful for?

List 3-5 people you wish you could inspire. Why?

What are 3-5 of your passions?

What makes each of your passions special to you?

What are 3-5 challenges you work on/work through?

Who are 3-5 people you are thankful for? Why?

What are 3-5 things you look forward to every day, or year? Why?

List 3-5 global or local actions you wish you could stop.

Where are 3-5 places you love to visit? Why?

Based on an above answer, choose the topic that you will base your Rant or Rave on.

I will Ra_____ about_____.

CHALLENGE CORNER

Consider who your audience would be when crafting your Rant or Rave.

ACTIVITY

RANT & RAVE

Take a look at your previous responses, then answer the questions below to brainstorm more content for you to Rant or Rave about. Make sure you are expressing how important your topic is to you and the emotional connection you have to your topic.

Which topic did you choose?

What are 3-5 reasons you chose your topic?

What are 3-5 important details or aspects you want others to know about your chosen topic?

What are 3-5 ways that your chosen topic affects you directly, in your daily life?

How were you either pleased or challenged by your interaction or your experience with your chosen topic?

What are 3-5 *strong* adjectives to describe your interaction or your experience with your chosen topic?

What are 2-3 emotions that your chosen topic brings to you?

How has your experience or interaction with your chosen topic changed you?

ACTIVITY

DESCRIBING YOUR EXPERIENCE

Based on your previous answers, go into more specific detail to comically or dramatically describe your view, your feelings, and your experiences of your topic.

EMOTIONAL CONNECTION TO EXPERIENCE OR INTERACTION

Describe your experience or interaction's significance to you in relation to your topic. Consider the reasons it is special or resonates with you. What aspects of your experiences with your topic have changed you permanently? What is your emotional connection to this experience or interaction?

STORY

What is the "story" of your interaction or experience to your topic? Is it tied to a specific person, event, place, or memory? When did this experience or interaction take place? Where did your experience or interaction take place? How did it start, evolve, and end? What specific details do you remember about the moment(s)?

YOUR STRONGEST POINTS

What is the most ridiculous aspect to you about your experience or situation with your topic? Were there any parts that were absurd, beyond belief, or too good to be true? What irregularity or strangeness did you encounter with your experience?

ACTIVITY

YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA RANT/RAVE

Now that you know what to say, limit your response to 280 characters, similar to a Twitter post. Then in the style of either TikTok or Instagram, record yourself performing your Rant or Rave in under 1 minute.

As you draft your Rant or Rave, consider: What will be your opening line? Will you start with an outrageous statement or boastful claim? Will you use any emojis? Strong commentary always uses detail and emotion. Also remember to include your thoughts or opinions as the main focal point of your Rant or Rave. Finally, consider your closing sentence or remark to leave the audience with.

Feel free to edit, change, cut, add, scribble or whatever in the crafting of your writing.

280 character limit:

ACTIVITY

PERFORMING YOUR RANT/RAVE

Now that you have finished the writing part of the activity, it is now time to record yourself performing your comedic or dramatic Rant or Rave. You can use a camera, a phone, or a computer to document your up-to-1-minute post. Look back over the social media examples found on page 6 to inspire your performance style. Remember to consider everything that you will include in your post.

- Where will you perform your Rant/Rave?
- Will you perform live, or will you record yourself?
- Will you record yourself performing your Rant/Rave, or will you have someone to assist and record you performing?
- Will you incorporate the use of Props? If so, what items will you use?
- Will you incorporate the use of costume(s)? If so, describe what you will be wearing. What is the significance of your costume(s)?
- Will you incorporate the use of make-up or special effects? If so, explain your idea(s).
- How can you make your Rant/Rave stand out for others to notice?

If you have a social media account, and if you feel comfortable posting your Rant/Rave, please remember to tag Geffen Playhouse at @GeffenPlayhouse or #GeffenPlayhouse.

REFLECTION

- How did it feel to Rant about something, or likewise, to Rave about something?
- Did you find yourself editing out things you really wanted to say? If so, what kept you from including that text in the final draft?
- Is there someone or a group you wish could hear your Rant/Rave? Why would it be important for them to hear your words?
- What did you learn about yourself in the completion of this Theater-Making at Home Project?
- What parts of your Rant or Rave were comical to you? What parts of your Rant or Rave were dramatic to you? Why?
- After attempting this activity, do you feel more comfortable to attempt one of the other Geffen Theater-Making at Home Monologue Projects? Why or why not?
- Do you feel more inspired to learn about other areas of Theater-Making? If so, what other areas of Theater would you like to learn more about?

RESOURCES

WRITING A RANT

<https://tinyurl.com/yxuu33qc>

WRITING A RAVE

<https://tinyurl.com/y39m3l2c>

TOP 7 SOCIAL MEDIA SITES IN 2020

<https://tinyurl.com/y37kqksx>

SOCIAL MEDIA ACRONYMS & SLANG

<https://tinyurl.com/y6nu6dng>

IDEAL LENGTH OF EVERY SOCIAL MEDIA POST

<https://tinyurl.com/y43on648>

WIKIPEDIA: UNBOXING

<https://tinyurl.com/y5yycj7r>

UNITED NATIONS STRATEGY AND PLAN OF ACTION ON HATE SPEECH

<https://tinyurl.com/y3vowqhk>

HATE SPEECH AND HATE CRIMES

<https://tinyurl.com/ydfflsa1>

DRAMA MASKS

<https://tinyurl.com/y4oz7pce>

[TWITTER.COM](#)

[INSTAGRAM.COM](#)

[TIKTOK.COM](#)