

SPEAKING ACTIVITY

Playback Performance*

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- Objective** : To enable learners to revisit their memorable moments/defining moments, and to enact them in narrative or non-narrative forms.
- Preparation** : Learners can be encouraged to recall and to reflect on some of their significant (even life-changing) events and articulate those events to themselves. The mental rehearsal, besides giving clarity to their thoughts, has cathartic effect as well.
- Participation** : Individual
- Duration** : About 5 minutes

Procedure :

- Teacher, if resourceful enough, demonstrates a playback performance or shows a video clipping or explains the concept and gets a couple of student volunteers to perform.
- After the demonstration, students are grouped into 6 members and instructed to perform in their respective groups and to get feedback from the members.
- If need be, the teacher could set the guidelines for effective performance:
 - They need to think of an authentic experience from their own lives.
 - The story chosen could be ordinary, extraordinary, hidden or difficult but something that impacted them.
 - There aren't any rigid forms or practices to the performance, but it should be interesting to others.
 - This performance breaks away from the scripted theater hence, spontaneity plays a vital role.
 - Towards the end, a performer may invite reflections on the performance from the audience which could even become a sort of conclusion to the story.
- Once the group activity gets over, the teacher gets a group or two to re-enact their performances to the whole class and wraps them up with a feedback.
- The session could end with the teacher/a proficient learner highlighting different stories shared in different groups and some skilful expressions employed by learners during their sharing.

Learning outcomes :

1. Learners realize that everyone has the natural capacity to perform and share their innate personal experiences.
2. Learners understand that when different students share their life stories, transformations can be brought about in others as their stories could hold certain shared values.

Further activity :

Learners should ruminate on their life experiences and share them with others at appropriate moments, as often as possible.

**Playback theatre is originally an improvisation theatre in which participants narrate stories from their lives and watch them enacted. It was founded in 1975 and since then it has inspired many people. This format is followed in different parts of the world in as varied places as schools, prisons, conferences and festivals. The police also often get the criminals to reenact the crime scenes in the same spot where they have committed the crime so as to reconstruct and to comprehend the whole episode.*

The crux of the playback performance is sharing of personal stories, which could be from the past, the present or the future. Its prime objectives are spontaneity and the release of creative juice.