

Nebraska K-12 Fine Arts Standards: Theatre Glossary

Active Listening	A structured form of listening and responding focusing the attention on the performer <i>FA 2.5.3.a</i>
Aesthetic	Pertaining to or concerned with the sensory and emotional impact of a theatrical work <i>FA 12.5.4.c</i>
Animation	Referring to cartoon characters <i>FA 2.5.4.b</i>
Aristotle's Six Elements of Drama	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Diction (<i>language</i>)2) Plot (<i>structure</i>)3) Character (<i>who</i>)4) Movement (<i>blocking or choreography</i>)5) Thought (<i>theme or moral</i>),6) Spectacle (<i>all technical theatre elements including sets, lights, costumes, props, sound, special effects</i>)
Articulation	The clear and precise pronunciation of words <i>FA 8.5.2.a, FA 12.5.2.a</i>
Blocking	The physical arrangement and movement of actors on the stage <i>FA 12.5.2.a, FA 12.5.2.b</i>
Character	The personality or part the actor (re)creates <i>FA 8.5.1.b, FA 8.5.1.e, FA 8.5.1.f, FA 5.5.1.f, FA 12.5.1.f, FA 12.5.2.a, FA 5.5.2.b, FA 8.5.2.c, FA 12.5.2.b, FA 12.5.2.d, FA 2.5.3.c, FA 5.5.3.c, FA 8.5.3.c, FA 5.5.3.e, FA 2.5.1.f, FA 5.5.3.b, FA 2.5.2.d, FA 5.5.2.c, FA 8.5.2.a, FA 8.5.2.b, FA 12.5.2.e</i>
Characterization	The development and portrayal of a personality through thought, action, dialogue, costuming and makeup
Collaboration	The process of working together, a joint effort with shared goals and supportive behavior
Dialogue	The conversation between characters on stage <i>FA 5.5.1.b, FA 5.5.1.e, FA 8.5.1.e, FA 12.5.1.e, FA 12.5.5.2.d</i>
Elements of Theatre	Referring to posture, movement, facial expression, gestures, vocal choice, costume, makeup, hair, props, space
Emoting	Portraying emotions on stage or for a performance in a highly stylized manner
A representative sampling of Entities for creation of theatre	Referring to educational theatre <ul style="list-style-type: none">• schools: Nebraska Thespians http://nebraskathespians.org/app/webroot/, Educational Theatre Association http://schooltheatre.org/Home/• colleges: American College Theater Festival http://www.kcactf.org/KCACTF.ORG_NATIONAL/KCACTF.html• community: Nebraska Association of Community Theatres http://users.connections.net/NACT/Default.htm• summer stock: Nebraska Repertory Theatre, Post Playhouse, Shakespeare on the Green http://www.cengage.com/resource_uploads/static_resources/0495898074/24674/summer_theatre_companies.html#nebraska

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- dinner theatre: Kearney Community Theatre <http://www.kearneycommunitytheatre.com/season.html>, Kountze Memorial Theatre <http://www.melodrama.net/park.htm>
- regional theatre: Guthrie Theater <http://www.guthrietheater.org/>, Kansas City Repertory Theatre <http://www.kcrep.org/>, Denver Center Theatre Company <http://www.denvercenter.org/intro.aspx>, Steppenwolf Theatre Company <http://steppenwolf.org>
- professional touring companies (e.g., bus and truck, national tours, Equity and non-Equity): Broadway theatre industry <http://www.broadwayleague.com/>

A representative sampling of Entities for Theatre Advocacy Referring to

- schools: Nebraska Speech Communication and Theatre Association (<http://www.nscta.info/>)
- local/state arts councils: Arts Councils of Nebraska http://www.nebraskaartscouncil.org/news_resources/resources/arts_councils/nebraska_arts_councils/, Nebraska Arts Council <http://www.nebraskaartscouncil.org/>
- community/state: Arts Across Nebraska <http://liedcenter.org/content/community/arts-across-nebraska>, Nebraska Association of Community Theatres <http://nebact.org/>, Nebraskans for the Arts <http://www.nebraskansforthearts.org/>, Nebraska High School Theatre Awards <http://www.nebraskahsta.org/>, Nebraska Cultural Endowment <http://www.nebraskaculturalendowment.org/>
- national: American Association of Community Theatre <http://www.aact.org/>, Americans for the Arts <http://www.americansforthearts.org/>, American Theatre Wing <http://americantheatrewing.org/>, League of Resident Theatre <http://www.lort.org/>, National Endowment for the Arts <http://arts.gov/>
- international: International Amateur Theatre Association <http://www.aitaiata.org/>, International Thespian Society <http://schooltheatre.org/ITS>

Environment	The physical surroundings or conditions in which a scene occurs <i>FA 2.5.1.a, FA 5.5.1.a, FA 12.5.1.a, FA 12.5.2.c</i>
Enunciation	The act of speaking clearly and concisely <i>FA 8.5.2.a, FA 12.5.2.a</i>
Etiquette	Common courtesies for the audience to follow when watching a play http://www.dixiepac.net/events_tickets/school_files/Theatre_Etiquette.pdf <i>FA 2.5.3.a, FA 5.5.3.a</i>
Extraneous sounds	Non-scripted utterances <i>FA 8.5.1.f</i>
Facial expression	Movements of the face that show feelings or ideas <i>FA 12.5.1.f, FA 8.5.2.b, FA 12.5.2.b</i>
Focal point	The center of interest or activity, the physical point or target of attention or emotion (e.g., eye contact, focus, direction of attention) <i>FA 8.5.2.d</i>
Genre	A class or category of a theatrical endeavor having a particular form, content, technique, or the like <i>FA5.5.3.d, FA 8.5.3.d, FA 12.5.3.d</i>

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- Gesture** Movement of separate parts of the body, such as waving an arm or shrugging a shoulder, to convey meaning and emotion
FA 12.5.1.f, FA 8.5.2.b
- The “Givens”** The pre-determined elements of a story or plot:
who - character
what - character’s activity (the “what” defines the “who”)
when - time of day, time of year, time in history
where - place or environment
why - character’s objective - what a character wants, needs, his/her goal
FA 8.5.1.b, FA 8.5.2, FA 8.5.1
- Improvisation** Spontaneous or loosely planned use of speech/dialogue and/or movement to create characters, setting and dramatic action
FA 8.5.1.b, FA 12.5.1.c, FA 2.5.1
- Improved Performance** A performance developed through exploration of set givens and a plot outline
FA 12.5.1.a
- Inflection** Modulation of voice, change in pitch or tone, to convey meaning and emotion
FA 8.5.2.a, FA 12.5.2.a
- Intellectual property** A work that is the result of creativity, such as a manuscript or a design, to which one has the rights of ownership, and for which one may apply for a copyright (e.g., royalties, rights, accreditation)
FA 5.5.4.f, FA 8.5.4.f, FA 12.5.4.f
- Linear Plot Structure** Plot The main story arc/framework of a literary work, including the following elements:
Exposition - introduction of the main characters, setting and situation
Inciting Incident- event that begins the conflict, is directly linked to the climax and the resolution
Rising Action - one or more characters in crisis
Climax - point of highest emotion; turning point
Falling Action - resolution of character’s crisis
Denouement (Resolution) - untying of plot threads
FA 12.5.1, FA 8.5.1.c, FA 12.5.1.c
- Monologue** A speech within a play delivered by a single actor alone on stage
FA 12.5.1.f, FA 12.5.2.a, FA 8.5.2.d, FA 12.5.2.d, FA 12.5.2.a
- Narration** The spoken or written account of an event
FA 5.5.1.e, FA 12.5.1.e, FA 5.5.2.d
- Nonverbal Communication** Communicating without words using facial expression, gestures, and body language
- Nonlinear plot structure** Using a plot (conflict) structure in which events do not happen causally or chronologically (e.g., flashbacks, parallel structures, reverse chronology)
FA 12.5.1.b, FA 12.5.1

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Performance space	The acting area surrounded by the audience area (e.g., proscenium, thrust, arena (theater-in-the round), black box, flexible staging) <i>FA 8.5.2.f, FA 12.5.2.f</i>
Projection	Control of volume, clarity, and distinctness of a voice to gain greater audience understanding <i>FA 8.5.2.a, FA 12.5.2.a</i>
Rate	The speed at which a message is delivered <i>FA 8.5.2.a, FA 12.5.2.a</i>
Scenic elements	Components of a performance space that indicate time period, setting, and mood (e.g., scenery, props, costumes)
Storyboard	A sequence of drawings, typically with some directions and dialogue, representing the scenes planned for a production <i>FA 12.5.1.b</i>
Stump speech	An impromptu “campaign” speech
Suspension of disbelief	Willingness of the audience to overlook the limitations of a performance and believe its events to be true <i>FA 8.5.3.e</i>
Tableau	A group of people or motionless figures representing a scene from a story or from history <i>FA 2.5.1.c, FA 5.5.1.c</i>
Tone	Intensity and inflection to express a mood, emotion or character
Theme	The subject, main idea or topic of a piece of writing, a person's thoughts; a topic <i>FA 8.5.1.d, FA 12.5.1.d, FA 12.5.4.c, FA 5.5.1.d, FA 2.5.1.d</i>
Theatrical Conventions	Generally accepted rules of the theatre by which the audience understands the play (e.g., audience is invisible to the characters of the play (<u>The Fourth Wall</u>), asides, soliloquies, split staging, performers in the audience)
Theatrical jobs/careers	Anyone who is contributing to a theatrical work (e.g., performers, directors, designers, technicians (crew), management, playwrights/screenwriters, financial management (producers) in the realms of theatre, film, television, web-based programming, circuses, dance, music, professional wrestling)
Vocal Variety	The use of tone, pitch, volume, rate, articulation, inflection and expressiveness in speech <i>FA 2.5.2.a, FA 5.5.2.a</i>
Volume	The degree of loudness or softness of voice