



Curiosity Theater Challenge

After you have explored emotional states within the Walk & Freeze exercise, we invite you to take theater making to the next level... in a practice called tableaux-vivants.

Please watch these instructional videos that introduce tableaux as a theater form and the accompanying video which will help clarify compositional elements so that actors can create compelling and evocative compositions.

With Curiosity at the center of this exploration, we will ask students to engage with story finding and story making, an inductive response to witnessing a single tableau frame.

Instructions:

Students (in groups of 3-5) will be tasked with creating a scene from life using tableau.

The composition should be inspired by one curiosity from the “Everyday Detective” board

Include at least the following elements:

- A clear Focal Point
- Multiple levels
- Varied proximity between actors

Actors will have 10-15 minutes to build their tableau paying close attention to the compositional elements. The scenario they depict can be of their choosing, but has to relate to the curiosity they chose. They will work to craft a tableau that they can hold for at least 60 seconds. The audience will take in the scene in total silence. Then, individually, students will each write down the scenario as they saw it, including as much information as possible, as if they are telling a story. They will articulate why certain characters are feeling certain emotions and they will name those emotions.

Questions worth considering: What is happening in the scene? Where are they? Who are the characters? Where do they come from?

Actors can relax, and students take turns sharing some ideas about what they saw and how they interpreted the story behind the shape.



Reflection Questions:

- How did it feel to embody someone's curiosity?
- What specific areas of the tableau made you curious?
- How did it feel to work as a group to create something new?
- What was difficult about the process?
- Which was your favorite tableau? Why?