

BEATS AND SCORING

BEATS IN SCRIPTS & MONOLOGUES

- BEATS, in the beginning are where the actor pauses and changes during a scene or monologue.
- However, BEATS are much more than just pauses.
- BEATS are sections within a scene or monologue.
- Everytime there there is a change in dynamic, emotion, or purpose, there is a change in BEAT.
- Deciding where the BEATS are in your monologue is an important step in deciding how you will perform your monologue.
- Changes in emotion and purpose are what make acting interesting. If you are having difficulty finding these changes (the BEATS) in a monologue, then it may not be the best monologue for you.

STEPS IN PREPARING A MONOLOGUE or SCENE FOR PERFORMANCE:

1. Read the script for enjoyment.
2. Read the script a second time to gain understanding of the goal(s), theme(s) and conflict(s)
3. Read the script for a third time to analyze as an actor – mark initial BEATS with a “/”.
4. After marking the initial BEATS, re-read a fourth time to check yourself and add any additional minor BEATS that you find.
5. REMEMBER: Purpose, emotion or dynamic should probably change AT LEAST a little on each sentence. Sometimes they will change in the middle of a sentence as well. Try to find ALL the changes in your selected script.
6. When you have marked all the BEATS you can find – you should SCORE the script.

ACTION WORD TO HELP YOU IN SCORING...

This is not a complete list of workable verbs. You may or may not find a verb here that works for your character.

The Character is attempting to....

Accuse	Convince	Help	Prepare
Annihilate	Counsel	Hurt	Preserve
Attack	Crush	Ignite	Reassure
Awaken	Dare	Implore	Relent
Beg	Dazzle	Incite	Resign
Belittle	Demand	Inspire	Ridicule
Berate	Destroy	Lambast	Scorn
Bombard	Encourage	Manipulate	Seduce
Build	Engage	Mock	Submit
Call on it	Enlighten	Nag	Suppress
Challenge	Entreat	Order	Tease
Comfort	Fascinate	Overwhelm	Test
	Focus	Persuade	

Any of these action verbs can be used with adverbs that make them stronger.

Examples: *More Overwhelmed* *Even More Hurt* *Very Focused*

As you SCORE the script, try to use these or other action words that express the motivation the character has at that specific time in the script.

FINAL STEPS IN PREPARING A SCRIPT OR MONOLOGUE FOR PERFORMANCE:

After you have identified and marked your BEATS and SCORED the script – you have two more steps in order to create a successful presentation:

1- BLOCKING

Blocking is the process of developing the movement AND the actual movement of the actors around the set or performance area. You may choose to do simple blocking – with little movement and simple gestures OR your script may need to have much stronger movement to express the motivations of the character.

Blocking should reinforce the motivation, dynamic, emotion and/or purpose of the speaker in order to assist the audience in understanding all of these and the character as a total package.

In general, movement used in blocking is either toward or away from the person to whom you are speaking – in a monologue you are addressing an imaginary person or group somewhere in front of you (usually toward the audience).

When you move TOWARD your audience – you are in a more aggressive mode. If you move AWAY from your audience – you appear to be more passive.

If you stand TALL and move with strength, you appear powerful, happy or excited and aggressive. If you are sitting or standing with your head lowered and/or chest caved in, you appear weaker, sadder or passive.

Using these simple ideas, and the BEATS and SCORING you have already completed – add BLOCKING to your planning for the script. Try out several ways of moving while you read or say the lines until you find the one that works for you. When you find what works for you – WRITE IT DOWN in between the lines or beside the lines of the script where you are going to make the planned movement.

2- REHEARSE – REHEARSE – REHEARSE ! MEMORIZE – MEMORIZE – MEMORIZE!

Practice in front of a mirror...in front of your classmates... in front of your relatives – ask them for advice or suggestions.

- This is a process – not a perfect event the first time you work it.
- You can make changes as you practice.
- Mark the changes down as you go in order to keep track of your process. (This document will give you something to start with if you work on the same script again.)

The more you practice and the more comfortable you are with the words, gestures and movement – the better you will be in the final performance!