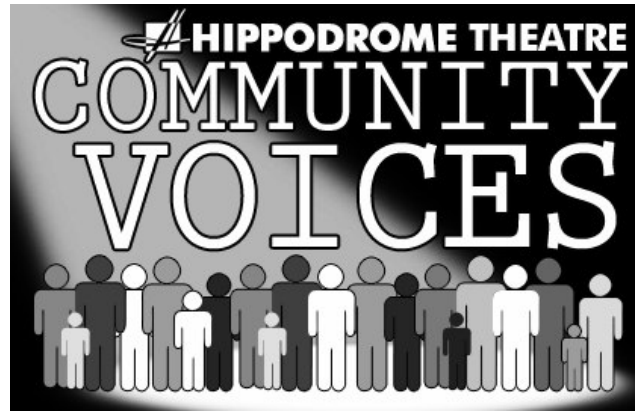


# Monologue Writing Exercises & Tips: *Monologues on Change*



## Getting Started: Journaling Exercises to Create a Character

Need a place to start? Try the journaling exercises below. These journaling prompts are intended to help writers think about different reasons a character might want to create change and discover what might have been the initial spark that began the character's journey toward change. Do not write a monologue based on the following prompts; rather use them as a way to think about different characters and ways to explore a journey toward change.

1. Think about a character from a well-known story or play who experienced some transformation or change. What started that character's journey toward change? What types of obstacles did the character overcome?
2. Think about a piece of music that you find inspiring, uplifting or moving. What makes it inspiring, uplifting or moving? How can a piece of music be the beginning of a character's journey toward change?
3. What if your character was a local, everyday hero? Explore what made them a hero, where they were before they became a hero, and how they got there. What if they were being honored by having an ice cream flavor named after them? What would it be called and why?
4. Look at local, national and global news headlines. What stands out as needing change? How might a character go about creating that change? What would be the first step toward changing that situation?

## Create a Context for Your Character's Monologue

Once you have a character in mind, create a context or scenario for your monologue. Pre-planning the scenario will help your monologue respond to these key questions: Who is your character speaking to, and why? What need is this character trying to meet by speaking this monologue? Where is the character? Is the setting important to the monologue?

### Scenario Examples

**Character:** A woman who got into trouble as a teen; she is a mother and nurse

**Audience:** The character's sixteen-year-old son who has been skipping school.

**Setting:** The kitchen of their home on a Saturday morning

**Goal:** To convince her son to avoid some of the choices his parents made

**Character:** A ten-year-old boy named Anthony

**Audience:** His best friend Joe

**Setting:** The bus stop

**Goal:** To convince Joe to tell someone about the abuse that Joe and his mother suffer at the hands of her boyfriend.

## KEY TERMS

**Monologue** – an extended speech by one character without interruption

**Character** – the fictional person in the world of a play or other work of literature

**Audience** – the person or people to whom the character is speaking

**Setting** – the place and time at which the action of the play occurs

**Goal** – the purpose of the character’s communication; what the character wants to achieve through his/her words and actions

**Scenario** – a written outline of a play or scene

**DIRECTIONS:** Create a few scenarios of your own!

Character: \_\_\_\_\_

Audience: \_\_\_\_\_

Setting: \_\_\_\_\_

Goal: \_\_\_\_\_

Character: \_\_\_\_\_

Audience: \_\_\_\_\_

Setting: \_\_\_\_\_

Goal: \_\_\_\_\_

Character: \_\_\_\_\_

Audience: \_\_\_\_\_

Setting: \_\_\_\_\_

Goal: \_\_\_\_\_

## Write Your Monologue!

1. First, review the submission guidelines including the prompt, length restrictions and evaluation criteria.

**Writing prompt:** Write a monologue in the voice of a character, real or invented, who wants to create change. Whether it's taking part in a community or global movement or making the first step toward improving our own personal circumstances, each change begins with a thought that prompts an action. In 200 to 300 words, write a monologue that explores your character's journey toward change.

2. Choose the scenario you created (or create a new one!) that best responds to the prompt and creates the potential for a unique and interesting monologue.
3. Review the monologue writing tips below.

### TIPS FOR WRITING AN EFFECTIVE MONOLOGUE

**Write in the voice of the character** – Write as though you are the character, using *I* or *we* (first person). Use the words and speech patterns your character would use when speaking.

**Write with purpose** – Remember that your character has an audience and goal. The words your character speaks should help him/her achieve that goal.

**Write in present tense** – Your character is speaking to someone NOW. While part of your monologue may include the retelling of past events, using present, active words will make your monologue stronger.

**Focus on a specific event or moment** – Do not try to tell your character's life story in one monologue. Focus on a particular event or moment that marks a turning point for your character.

4. Write a draft of your monologue.
5. Share it with someone. Feedback from a friend, family member, or teacher will help you better understand how clearly you've communicated your ideas, and where in the monologue you can make improvements.
6. Revise, revise, and revise!
7. Submit your monologue to Community Voices! Submission questions? Call Katie (352) 373-5968 ext 249 or email [kdelvaux@thehipp.org](mailto:kdelvaux@thehipp.org)