



North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

## **INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT TOOLS**

FOR ACHIEVING NEW STANDARDS

This document is designed to assist North Carolina educators in effective instruction of the new Common Core State and/or North Carolina Essential Standards (Standard Course of Study) in order to increase student achievement. NCDPI staff are continually updating and improving instructional tools to better serve teachers.

### *Unpacking Standards Appendix A: Glossary of Terms For Teachers*

#### **What is the purpose of this tool?**

This tool provides educators with terminologies that represent the big, powerful concepts and ideas teachers need to know and understand in order to effectively teach the new Common Core State and North Carolina Essential Standards and use supporting materials. The Glossary of Terms is not meant to be exhaustive, but seeks to address critical terms and definitions essential in building content knowledge and understanding but also in promoting consistency across disciplines, increased student outcomes, and improved parent communication. This is a living document and will undergo additions in terms over time.

#### **How do I send Feedback?**

We intend the explanations and examples in this document to be helpful and specific. That said, we believe that as this document is used, educators will find ways in which the tool can be improved and made even more useful. If there are terms which are either omitted or which you feel are misrepresented in this glossary, please send feedback to us at [feedback@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:feedback@dpi.nc.gov) and we will use your input to refine our instructional tool. Thank You!

#### **Where are the new Common Core State and North Carolina Essential Standards?**

All standards are located at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/acre/>

# North Carolina Theatre Arts Essential Standards

Terminologies

2012

# ***North Carolina Theatre Arts Essential Standards***

## **Terminologies**

*The following terms may be useful in understanding the content of the North Carolina Theatre Arts Essential Standards (2010).*

**Artistic choices:** Selections made by theatre artists about situation, action, direction, and design in order to convey meaning.

**Blocking:** Where the actors move on stage.

**Central dramatic question:** The line of action that drives a play.

**Character:** A person portrayed in a drama, novel, or other artistic piece.

**Creative drama:** Process-centered, non-exhibitional form of drama in which participants are guided by a leader to imagine, enact, and reflect upon human experiences.

**Drama:** The art of composing, writing, acting, or producing plays; a literary composition intended to portray life character or tell a story usually involving conflicts and emotions exhibited through action and dialogue, designed for theatrical performance.

**Dramatic media:** Means of telling stories by way of stage, film, television, radio, or computer discs.

**Dramatic/Plot structure:** The organization of a script or story line that includes exposition, rising action, climax and falling action.

**Dramatic/Pretend play:** Spontaneous dramatic enactment often done by children pretending or imitating while playing.

**Dramaturg:** Literary advisor, supplier of information about past productions and interpretations of scripts and about the milieu out of which a play has come.

**Electronic media:** Means of communication characterized by the use of technology, radio, computers, etc. (e.g. virtual reality).

**Emotional recall:** Remembering specific emotions such as fear, joy, anger, etc.

**Environment:** Physical surroundings that establish place, time, and atmosphere/mood; the physical conditions that reflect and affect the emotions, thoughts, and actions of characters.

**Formal production:** The staging of a dramatic work for presentation for an audience.

**Ground plan:** A floor plan for a scenic design as if seen from above.

**Guided practice:** A class or creative drama activity or dramatization prompted and/or facilitated by the teacher.

**Imitate:** To copy or mimic the actions, appearance, mannerisms, or speech of others.

**Improvisation:** The spontaneous use of body, voice and mind to explore, create or present theatre.

**Independent practice:** A group, partner or individual activity or dramatization developed and executed by the student or students.

**Intrapersonal:** Existing or occurring within the individual self or mind.

**Kinesthetic:** Resulting from the sensation of bodily position, presence, or movement.

**Master teacher:** Recognized authority in a specific discipline of theatre.

**Mood:** The feeling a work of art gives.

**Movement:** An expression of ideas or thought through gesture or transfer of weight.

**New art forms:** The novel combination of traditional arts and materials with emerging technology (such as performance art, videodisks, virtual reality).

**Non-western theatre:** Theatre not originated in Europe or the United States such as theatre created and developed in Africa or Asia.

**Objective:** In theatre, the desired goal of a character that motivates action.

**Pantomime:** A situation where a performer relies totally on gesture, facial expression, and movement, rather than speech, for enactment of his material.

**Plot:** In literature, is the action of the story; in theatre, is the action of the story presented on stage.

**Portfolio:** Collected evidence representative of a student's work to include journal entries, technical design work, programs, original scripts or critiques, performance videos, research papers, and other items related to theatre study.

**Production organization chart:** A written and/or pictorial representation that demonstrates the structure and flow necessary to the development and presentation of a theatrical production.

**Prompt book:** The stage manager's copy of the script in which are noted all the blocking and technical cues.

**Role:** The characteristics and expected social behavior of an individual in a given position (e.g., mother, employer, etc.). Role portrayal is likely to be more predictable and one-dimensional than character portrayal.

**Role playing:** Improvising movement and dialogue to put oneself in another's place in a particular situation and often to examine the person(s) and/or situation(s) being improvised.

**Senses:** The means through which the body feels and perceives to include seeing, hearing, touching, smelling, and tasting.

**Script:** The written dialogue, description, and directions provided by the playwright.

**Scenery:** The scenery constructed for a theatrical performance.

**Setting:** When and where a story or drama takes place.

**Side-coaching:** A technique used during dramatic activities or rehearsals, in which the teacher offers suggestions or comments from the side to heighten and advance the action.

**Situation:** A combination of circumstances at a given moment.

**Special effects:** Visual or sound effects used to enhance a theatrical performance.

**Subtext:** Information that is implied but not stated by a character; thoughts or actions of a character that do not express the same meaning as the character's spoken words.

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