

**Dramatic Arts**  
**University/College**  
**Preparation (ADA3M)**

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# The Scriptwriter

## The Task

Students were presented with the following scenario and instructions:

You are interested in a career in the theatre. To try to enter your chosen field, you are going to submit a script to a local theatre company. The piece is to be a drama that has friendship as its theme, three or four characters, and a performance time of five to six minutes. You will provide an introduction to your script that includes a brief plot summary, descriptions of each of the characters, and a short description of the setting.

The script must focus on one of the following aspects of friendship: the reliability of friends, the value and rewards of friendship, the meaning of friendship, or the surprises of friendship. In addition, it must contain the elements of dramatic tension (struggle, escalating tension, crisis, resolution), which are thoughtfully resolved by the script's end.

## Final Product

Each student was to submit a polished, final copy of a script for a scene that would take five to six minutes to perform. The script was to include clear, detailed stage directions and an introduction consisting of:

- a brief summary of the scene's plot;
- two to three sentences describing each character in the scene;
- a short description of the setting.

## Expectations Addressed in the Exemplar Task

This task gave students the opportunity to demonstrate achievement of all or part of each of the following expectations selected from the Theory and Creation strands.

*Students will:*

1. develop the background of a character, using appropriate techniques;
2. interpret a variety of roles/characters, using the techniques of character development;
3. create an original or adapted dramatic presentation, using a variety of strategies;
4. describe how movement and non-verbal communication can be used to portray character, to define relationships among characters, and to communicate dramatic tension;
5. create a working script for production, using a variety of strategies.

*For information on the process used to prepare students for the task and on the materials and resources required, see the Teacher Package reproduced on pages 53–58 of this document.*