

Preparing Your Monologue

Who is your character?

This may include their age, gender, occupation, cultural background, race and ethnicity, religious and/or spiritual identity and background, sexual orientation, disability status, socioeconomic background, family status, as well as their personal history and experiences.

How does your character relate to the world of the play?

What level of power, influence, and agency does your character have? In what circumstances are they most comfortable? What changes do they experience over the course of the play? What is meaningful about what they contribute to the story?

What is your character's super objective?

Identify the one thing your character wants most in the world. This should be able to be expressed in short, positive terms.

What is your character's objective in this monologue?

What does your character aim to achieve by saying these words? How does that relate to the play?

What tactics can you use?

Identify what tactics your character can utilize to work towards their objective in this monologue. Identify multiple options for different lines can help you explore different emotional arcs for the piece.

What are the stakes?

What happens if your character is unsuccessful? How does that impact the current moment for them? How does that impact the future?

What additional circumstances affect this monologue?

- Who are you talking to? What is your relationship to them? How do you imagine them responding to you?
- What happens immediately before you begin to prompt this monologue?
- Where is this taking place? How does that influence how your character behaves?
- What are you trying to communicate?
- What are you competing with?
- What discoveries does your character make in this monologue?
- What knowledge does your character have that the individual(s) you are speaking to do not have? What do they know that you don't? What common knowledge do you share?