

Course: Improvisation Starters Compilation

Lesson Six: What Are You Doing?

Learning Area: The Arts

Strands: Drama

Time: 8 Minutes

Year Level: 5-6

Content Descriptor:

- Explore dramatic action, empathy and space in improvisations, play-building and scripted drama to develop characters and situations (ACADRM035).

Learning Focus:

- Students develop improvisation skills and practice spontaneous thinking.
- Students practice giving and receiving theatrical 'offers'.

Time:

Teaching and Learning Strategies:

Preparation and Resources:

8 minutes

Process

- Ask students to form a circle.
- Choose a volunteer to go into the centre of the circle.
- Ask the volunteer (Student A) to mime an action, e.g. digging a hole. After they have established the mime ask them to freeze.
- Ask the student to their left in the circle (Student B), to go into the circle and ask, "What are you doing?"
- Student A must respond with a completely different action to what they actually doing but still justifies why they are in the position they are in. For example, if they are reaching up they might say, "I'm trying to catch a balloon".
- Student B joins Student A and both students now mime this new activity together. Once both students have established and extended their mime ask them to freeze.
- Ask Student A to leave the centre of the circle and invite another student (Student C) to join Student B. Upon entering the circle this student must ask, "What are you doing?" Student B now must make up a new action that justifies the position they are in.
- The activity continues as established above until everyone in the circle has had a turn.

Final steps

At the conclusion of any of these activities, ask students to complete a reflection by writing about the best aspects of the activity and what they learned. They can complete a journal entry using the Drama Journal template.

Relevant ARTS:LIVE resources

- What are you Doing? video
- Let's Explore Improvisation activity sheet
- Drama Journal template.