

Theatre Standards
6th Grade – High School

These Arizona theatre standards serve as a framework to guide the development of a well-rounded theatre curriculum that is tailored to the needs of students in the diverse schools of Arizona.

What's new?

Here are some things to look for in these standards:

1. Instead of organizing the standards into 3 big categories - Create, Relate, Evaluate, these draft standards have 4 categories - **Creating, Presenting, Responding and Connecting**. Creating and Presenting are similar to the 2006 category of Create; Responding and Connecting are similar to the 2006 categories of Relate and Evaluate.
2. The standards **are organized grade by grade, with 3 levels for High School**, instead of into skill levels. This allows for greater differentiation of instruction and for ease of measuring student progress over time. The document specifies standards to be addressed within the school year or time frame of the class. This document does not dictate the amount of instructional time to be devoted to each standard; rather it is left to the district committee or individual teacher to determine how best to interpret and teach all the standards. It is expected that theatre teachers will combine and interweave standards to create units of study.
3. The three High School levels are roughly: one year of study (Proficient), 2-4 years of study (Accomplished) and honors or college-entry level of study (Advanced).
4. In many performance standards, examples are given in parenthetical "example or e.g." notes. These are in no way prescriptive; they simply provide examples and clarifications.
5. Under the 4 big categories are 11 Anchor Standard Statements, representing the ultimate goals of student study in the arts through the completion of a sequential arts education program. These Anchor Standards are shared across all art forms

Creating - Conceiving and developing new artistic ideas and work.	Performing - Realizing artistic ideas and work through interpretation and presentation	Responding - Understanding and evaluating how the arts convey meaning	Connecting - Relating artistic ideas and work with personal meaning and external context.
Anchor Standard #1. Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.	Anchor Standard #4. Select, analyze and interpret artistic work for presentation.	Anchor Standard #7. Perceive and analyze artistic work.	Anchor Standard #10. Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.
Anchor Standard #2. Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.	Anchor Standard #5. Develop and refine artistic work for presentation.	Anchor Standard #8. Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.	Anchor Standard #11. Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding.
Anchor Standard #3. Refine and complete artistic work.	Anchor Standard #6. Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work.	Anchor Standard #9. Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.	

Theatre Creating

Anchor Standard #1 Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work

6th	7th	8th	HS Proficient	HS Accomplished	HS Advanced
a. Identify blocking based on a character in a theatrical work.	a. Investigate multiple perspectives and solutions to staging challenges in a theatrical work.	a. Investigate and explore multiple perspectives and solutions to staging problems in a theatrical work.	a. Apply basic research to construct ideas about the visual composition of a theatrical work.	a. Investigate historical and cultural conventions and their impact on the visual composition of a theatrical work.	a. Synthesize knowledge from a variety of dramatic forms, theatrical conventions, and technologies, including rights and royalties to create the visual composition of a theatrical work.
b. Identify solutions to design challenges in a theatrical work.	b. Present and explain solutions to design challenges in a theatrical work.	b. Explore and discuss solutions to design challenges of a performance space in a theatrical work.	b. Explore the impact of technology on design choices in a theatrical work.	b. Implement design solutions for a theatrical work.	b. Design and implement a complete design for a theatrical work that incorporates all elements of technology necessary for a piece/production (e.g. lighting, scenery, sound, props, costumes, media, makeup, rights and royalties).
c. Explore a scripted or improvised character by imagining the given circumstances in a theatrical work.	c. Envision and describe a scripted or improvised character's inner thoughts and objectives in a theatrical work.	c. Develop a scripted or improvised character by discussing the character's inner thoughts, objectives, and motivations in a theatrical work.	c. Use script analysis to generate ideas about a character that is believable and convincing in a theatrical work.	c. Use personal experiences and background knowledge to develop a character that is believable and authentic in a theatrical work.	c. Integrate cultural and historical contexts with personal experiences to create a character that is believable and authentic in a theatrical work.

Anchor Standard #2 Organize and develop artistic ideas and work

a. Analyze original ideas and artistic choices to improve, refine, and evolve a devised or scripted theatrical work.	a. Examine and justify original ideas and artistic choices in a theatrical work based on critical analysis, background knowledge and historical and cultural context.	a. Articulate and apply critical analysis, background knowledge, research and historical and cultural context to the development of original ideas for a theatrical work.	a. Discuss the function of history and culture in the development of a dramatic concept through a critical analysis of original ideas in a theatrical work.	a. Refine a dramatic concept to demonstrate a critical understanding of historical and cultural influences of original ideas applied to a theatrical work.	a. Develop and synthesize original ideas in a theatrical work utilizing critical analysis, historical and cultural context, research and western or non-western theatre traditions.
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6th	7th	8th	HS Proficient	HS Accomplished	HS Advanced
b. Contribute ideas and accept and incorporate the ideas of others in preparing or devising theatrical work.	b. Demonstrate mutual respect for self and others and their roles in preparing or devising a theatrical work.	b. Share responsibilities and leadership roles to develop collaborative goals when preparing or devising theatrical work.	b. Collaborate as the actor, director, playwright and designers to explore their interdependent roles in a theatrical work.	b. Cooperate as a creative team to make interpretive choices for a theatrical work.	b. Collaborate as a creative team to create artistic solutions and make interpretive choices in a devised or scripted theatrical work.
Anchor Standard # 3 Refine and complete artistic work					
a. Discuss and identify artistic choices to refine a devised or scripted theatrical work.	a. Analyze and refine artistic choices in a devised or scripted theatrical work.	a. Use rehearsal and analysis to refine a devised or scripted theatrical work.	a. Practice and demonstrate a devised or scripted theatrical work using theatrical staging (blocking, movement).	a. Analyze and critique the dramatic concept of a devised or scripted theatrical work.	a. Conceptualize the style, genre or form in a devised or scripted theatrical work.
b. Discuss a planned technical design during the rehearsal process for a devised or scripted theatrical work. (e.g. lighting, sound, scenery, props, costumes, makeup, media).	b. Research multiple technical design elements for a devised or scripted theatrical work. (e.g. lighting, sound, scenery, props, costumes, makeup, media).	b. Implement a planned technical design using simple technology for devised or scripted theatrical work. (e.g. lighting, sound, scenery, props, costumes, makeup, media).	b. Justify technical design choices to support the story and emotional impact of a devised or scripted theatrical work. (e.g. lighting, sound, scenery, props, costumes, makeup, media).	b. Conceptualize and construct technical design choices to enhance the story and emotional impact of a devised or scripted theatrical work. (e.g. lighting, sound, scenery, props, costumes, makeup).	b. Employ a high level of technical proficiency to support the story and emotional impact of a devised or scripted theatrical work (e.g. safely utilize technical theatre practices).
c. Use physical and vocal exploration for character development in an improvised or scripted theatrical work.	c. Demonstrate effective physical and vocal traits of characters in an improvised or scripted theatrical work.	c. Refine effective physical and vocal traits of characters in an improvised or scripted theatrical work.	c. Explore physical, vocal and psychological choices to develop a performance that is believable, authentic, and relevant to a theatrical work.	c. Research and analyze scripts to revise physical, vocal, and psychological choices which impact the believability and relevance of a theatrical work.	c. Perform ideas from research and script analysis to create a believable, authentic, and relevant piece in a theatrical work.

Theatre Performing

Anchor Standard #4 Select, Analyze and Interpret artistic work for performance

6th	7th	8th	HS Proficient	HS Accomplished	HS Advanced
a. Describe the underlying thoughts and emotions that create dialogue and action in a theatrical work.	a. Discuss various character objectives (choices) in a theatrical work.	a. Demonstrate character choices using given circumstances in a theatrical work.	a. Research various character objectives and tactics in a theatrical work to overcome an obstacle.	a. Analyze unique choices and create believable and sustainable characters theatrical work.	a. Apply reliable research of directors' styles to create unique choices for a directorial concept in a theatrical work.
b. Demonstrate physical choices to create meaning in a theatrical work.	b. Discuss various staging choices to enhance the story in a theatrical work.	b. Describe how character relationships assist in telling a story of a theatrical work.	b. Apply pacing to better communicate the story in a theatrical work.	b. Identify essential text information, research from various sources, and the director's concept that influence character choices in a theatrical work.	b. Apply a variety of researched acting techniques to character choices in a theatrical work.

Anchor Standard #5 Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation

a. Participate in a variety of acting exercises and techniques that can be applied for a theatrical work.	a. Participate in a variety of acting exercises and techniques that can be applied for a theatrical work.	a. Practice various acting techniques to expand skills in a rehearsal or theatrical performance.	a. Use a variety of acting techniques to expand skills in a rehearsal or theatrical performance.	a. Refine a range of acting skills to build a believable and sustainable theatrical work.	a. Apply and justify a collection of acting techniques from reliable resources to prepare a believable and sustainable performance.
b. Choose a variety of technical elements that can be applied to a design in a theatrical work.	b. Demonstrate the use of technical elements in a theatrical work.	b. Use a variety of technical elements to create a design for a rehearsal or theatrical work.	b. Use researched technical elements to increase the impact of design in a theatrical work.	Interpret and apply contractual royalties to secure rights for a theatrical work	b. Explain and justify the selection of technical elements used to build a design that communicates the dramatic concept.

Anchor Standards #6 Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work

6th	7th	8th	HS Proficient	HS Accomplished	HS Advanced
a. Incorporate voice, movement and gestures to communicate emotions in a guided theatrical experience (e.g. process drama, story drama, creative drama).	a. Perform in a group guided theatrical experience and present it informally to an audience.	a. Perform a rehearsed theatrical work for an audience.	a. Perform a scripted theatrical work for a specific audience.	a. Present a theatrical work using creative processes that shape the production for a specific audience.	a. Present a theatrical production for a specific audience that employs research and analysis grounded in the creative perspectives of the playwright, director, designer, and dramaturg.

Theatre Responding

Anchor Standard #7 Perceive and analyze artistic work

6th	7th	8th	HS Proficient	HS Accomplished	HS Advanced
a. Describe and record personal reactions to artistic choices in a theatrical work.	a. Compare recorded personal and peer reactions to artistic choices in a theatrical work.	a. Apply criteria to the evaluation of artistic choices in a theatrical work.	a. Respond to what is seen, felt, and heard in a theatrical work to develop criteria for artistic choices.	a. Demonstrate an understanding of multiple interpretations of artistic criteria and how each might be used to influence future artistic choices of a theatrical work.	a. Use historical and cultural context to structure and justify personal responses to a theatrical work.

Anchor Standard #8 Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work

a. Justify responses based on personal experiences when participating in or observing a theatrical work.	a. Discuss other artist's character choices based on personal experiences.	a. Apply character choices based on other artist's or personal experiences in a theatrical work.	a. Analyze and compare character choices developed from personal experiences in multiple theatrical works.	a. Defend character choices when participating in or observing a theatrical work.	a. Modify character choices using the work of others when participating in or observing a theatrical work.
b. Identify multiple cultural perspectives that influence a theatrical work.	b. Describe how specific cultural perspectives can influence theatrical work.	b. Analyze how cultural perspectives influence the evaluation of a theatrical work.	b. Identify and compare cultural perspectives and contexts that influence the evaluation of theatrical work.	b. Apply concepts from a theatrical work for personal realization about cultural perspectives and understanding.	b. Apply new understandings of cultures and contexts to theatrical work.
c. Identify and discuss personal aesthetics, preferences, and beliefs through participation in or observation of theatrical work.	c. Interpret and discuss how personal aesthetics, preferences, and beliefs are used in a theatrical work.	c. Apply personal aesthetics, preferences, and beliefs to evaluate a theatrical work.	c. Justify personal aesthetics, preferences, and beliefs through participation in and observation of a theatrical work.	c. Provide multiple aesthetics, preferences, and beliefs through participation in and observation of theatrical work.	c. Justify multiple aesthetics, preferences, and beliefs that informs artistic decisions in a theatrical work.

Anchor Standard #9 Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work

6th	7th	8th	HS Proficient	HS Accomplished	HS Advanced
a. Use supporting evidence and criteria to evaluate a theatrical work.	a. Explain preferences, using supporting evidence and criteria to evaluate a theatrical work.	a. Respond to a theatrical work using supporting evidence, personal aesthetics, and artistic criteria.	a. Examine a theatrical work using supporting evidence and criteria, while considering art forms, history, culture, and other disciplines.	a. Analyze and assess a theatrical work by connecting it to art forms, history, culture, and other disciplines using supporting evidence and criteria.	a. Research and synthesize cultural and historical information related to a theatrical work to support or evaluate artistic choices.
b. Use one or more production elements in a theatrical work to assess aesthetic choices.	b. Use one or more production elements in a theatrical work to assess aesthetic choices.	b. Evaluate the production elements used in a theatrical work to assess aesthetic choices.	b. Apply the aesthetics of the production elements in a theatrical work.	b. Construct meaning in a theatrical work, taking into consideration, personal aesthetics and knowledge of production elements while respecting others' interpretations.	b. Analyze and evaluate varied aesthetic interpretations of production elements for a theatrical work.
c. Evaluate and analyze issues and situations in a theatrical work from an audience member's perspective.	c. Identify how the intended purpose of a theatrical work appeals to a specific audience.	c. Assess the impact of a theatrical work on a specific audience.	c. Describe the playwright's purpose for an intended audience in a theatrical work.	c. Justify how a theatrical work communicates a specific purpose for an audience.	c. Compare and debate the connection between a theatrical work and contemporary issues that may impact an audience.

Theatre Connecting

Anchor Standard #10 Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art

6th	7th	8th	HS Proficient	HS Accomplished	HS Advanced
a. Examine a community issue through multiple perspectives in a theatrical work.	a. Explain how the actions and motivations of characters in a theatrical work impact perspectives of a community or culture.	a. Incorporate multiple perspectives and diverse community ideas in a theatrical work.	a. Investigate how cultural perspectives, community ideas and personal beliefs impact a theatrical work.	a. Choose and interpret a theatrical work to reflect or question personal beliefs.	a. Collaborate on a theatrical work that examines a critical global issue using multiple personal, community, and cultural perspectives.
b. Identify universal themes or common social issues and express them through a theatrical work.	b. Use different forms of theatrical work to examine contemporary social, cultural, or global issues.	b. Incorporate music, dance, art, and/or media to strengthen the meaning and conflict in a theatrical work with a particular cultural, global, or historic context.	b. Explore how cultural, global, and historic belief systems affect creative choices in a theatrical work.	b. Integrate conventions and knowledge from different art forms and other disciplines to develop a cross-cultural theatrical work.	b. Develop a theatrical work that identifies and questions cultural, global, and historic belief systems.

Anchor Standard #11 Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding

a. Research and analyze two different versions of the same theatrical story to determine differences and similarities in the visual and aural world of each story.	a. Research and discuss how a playwright might have intended a theatrical work to be produced.	a. Research the story elements of a staged theatrical work and compare them to another production of the same work.	a. Research how other theatre artists apply creative processes to tell stories in a devised or scripted theatrical work.	a. Formulate creative choices for a devised or scripted theatrical work based on research about the selected topic.	a. Justify and document the creative choices made in a devised or scripted theatrical work based on critical interpretation of specific data from research.
b. Investigate the time period and place of a theatrical work to understand performance and design choices.	b. Examine artifacts from a time period and geographic location to better understand performance and design choices in a theatrical work.	b. Identify and use artifacts from a time period and place to develop performance and design choices in a theatrical work.	b. Use basic theatre research methods to better understand the social and cultural background of a theatrical work.	b. Explore and document how personal beliefs and biases can affect the interpretation of research data applied in theatrical work.	b. Document and present and support an opinion about the social, cultural, and historical understandings of a theatrical work, based on critical research.

THEATRE GLOSSARY

Acting techniques	Specific skills, pedagogies, theories, or methods of investigation used by an actor to prepare for a theatre performance
Believability	Theatrical choices thought to be “true” based upon an understanding of any given fictional moment, interpretation of text, and/or human interaction
Character traits	Observable embodied actions that illustrate a character’s personality, values, beliefs, and history
Conflict	The problem, confrontation, or struggle in a scene or play; conflict may include a character against him or herself, a character in opposition to another character, a character against nature, a character against society, or a character against the supernatural
Creative drama	A process-centered, non-exhibition approach to drama intended to benefit the performers themselves; story drama and process drama are two types of creative drama
Creative processes	The application of production and technical elements (see the definitions) to a theatrical production
Devised drama	Creation of an original performance piece by an ensemble
Dialogue	A conversation between two or more characters
Dramatic play	Make-believe where children naturally assign and accept roles, then act them out
Focus	Commitment by a participant (an actor, technician, director) to remain in the scope of the project or to stay within the world of the play
Genre	Relating to a specific kind or type of drama and theatre such as a tragedy, drama, melodrama, comedy, or farce
Gesture	An expressive and planned movement of the body or limbs
Given circumstances	The underlying actions and events that have happened before the play, story, or devised piece begins
Guided drama experience	A leader guides participants during a process drama, story drama, or creative drama experience (see the definitions) through side-coaching, narration, and prompting; the action of the drama does not stop in order

for the leader to support the students; facilitator may guide participants in or out of role

Improvise The spontaneous, intuitive, and immediate response of movement and speech; a distinction can be made between spontaneous improvisation, which is immediate and not rehearsed, and prepared improvisation, which is shaped and rehearsed

Imaginary place An imagined location which can be historical, fictional, or realistic

Imagined worlds An imaginary world created collectively by participants in a drama experience

Inner thoughts The underlying and implied meaning or intentions in the character's dialogue or actions (also known as subtext)

Motivation Reasons why a character behaves or reacts in a particular way in a scene or play

Non-representational materials

Objects which can be transformed into specific props through the imagination

Objective play A goal or particular need or want that a character has within a scene or play

Plot A narrative as revealed through the action and/or dialogue; traditionally, a plot has the elements of exposition, inciting incident, conflict, rising action, climax, and resolution or falling action

Process drama An episodic, process-centered, improvised form of drama in which teacher and students are in-role exploring and reflecting on an issue, story, theme, problem, or idea in a non-exhibition format that is intended to benefit the performers themselves

Production elements

Technical elements selected for use in a specific production, including sets, sound, costumes, lights, music, props, and make-up, as well as elements specific to the production such as puppets, masks, special effects, or other story telling devices/concepts

Scripted drama A piece of writing for the theatre that includes a description of the setting, a list of the characters, the dialogue, and the action of the characters

Script analysis The study of a script to understand the underlying structure and themes of the play's story, and the motives and objectives of its characters

Staging	Patterns of movement in a scene or play including, for example, stage crosses, entrances, and exits which help to convey meaning
Story drama	Episodic, process-centered, improvised form of drama that uses existing literature as a starting point for drama exploration, the drama explores implied moments (before, after, or within) that may not exist in the story and is presented in a non-exhibition format that is intended to benefit the performers themselves
Story elements	Characters, setting, dialogue, and plot that create a story
Style	The use of a specific set of characteristic or distinctive techniques such as realism, expressionism, epic theatre, documentary theatre, or classical drama; or movement and characteristics belonging to certain historical or cultural contexts such as Restoration Comedy or Kabuki theatre; style may also refer to the unique artistic choices of a particular playwright, director, or actor.
Tactic	The means by which a character seeks to achieve their objective, the selection of tactics are based on the obstacle presented; in acting and directing a tactic refers to a specific action verb
Technical elements	The elements of spectacle such as sets, sound, costume, lights, music, props, and makeup used to create a unified and meaningful design for a theatrical production
Theatrical conventions	Practices and/or devices that the audience and actors accept in the world of the play even when it is not realistic, such as a narrator, flashback, or an aside
Theme	The aspect of the human condition under investigation in the drama; it can be drawn from unifying topics or questions across content areas
Visual composition	The arrangement of actors and scenery on a stage for a theatrical production, sometimes known as <i>mise en scène</i> .