

English 9
Anouilh's *Antigone*
Staged Reading

We'll talk specifically about this assignment on today's Zoom call, but here is the handout to accompany those directions. Here are the groups:

<u>Group 1</u>	<u>Group 2</u>	<u>Group 3</u>	<u>Group 4</u>	<u>Group 5</u>	<u>Group 6</u>	<u>Group 7</u>
Elise	Allison	Isis	Lilly	Anna	Becky	Isha
Ruthie	Benedetta	Portia	Abigail	Grace	Franchi	Lucia
	Gabby	Yahfyah	Molly	Nadia	Cristina	Izzy

You'll want to begin by exchanging contact information with your partner or partners so that you can talk to each other easily the next week or so. Make a daily schedule so you have time to collaborate, as you would if we had class. Even if you divide tasks in your group, you should rehearse on the phone everyday so that you are comfortable with each other's choices, have a sense of what your reaction will be, and so on.

To begin, as a group you'll choose a scene or excerpt of a scene (continuous; no jumping around) to act out. The scene should feature about 3 pages of dialogue. Not every person needs to have an acting part; students may build costumes and props, or otherwise play to their strengths. All students should participate fully and take ownership of their tasks. Keep in mind the number of people in your group as you choose a scene.

There are three workdays allotted for this project. Thus, students should use what would be class time and homework time (probably, realistically, a little less than an hour a day, but if students have time and are inspired, they can do more) to work on their reading. There is not a requirement that you have memorized the parts, but you should go over it again and again so that you have made decisions about what you'll emphasize in light of your understanding of character and scene. The performance is necessarily about your interpretation of the text; you'll express that interpretation mostly vocally and with facial expressions.

If you choose to use costumes and props, the expectation is that you are using items from around your house, creatively adapted for the scene.

Your rendering of the scene should be serious, polished, and appropriate to the text.

Journals

DIRECTIONS: Journals should be double-spaced about two-thirds of a typewritten page each. You may hand write or type—all work should be double spaced and handed in as a pdf to the assignment in Jupiter.

****I won't accept late journals.****

All journal prompts are meant to be answered specifically, using direct quotations from your scene.

Journal 1:

Understand your scene:

1. Summarize your scene
2. Make supported statements about the purpose of your scene
3. Choose 1–2 important passages to analyze; prefer your own speeches if possible
4. Compare and contrast with the corresponding scene in Sophocles

5. What is the division of tasks in your group? How is everyone able to contribute more or less equally?

Journal 2:

Answer these questions about vocal choices specifically for your group and your scene: (Remember that stage directions are from the first production of the play and are not comprehensive of even what happened in that production—you should not be limited by them as you think through your own blocking.)

1. How can you use the speed and volume of your reading to emphasize particular ideas and emotions?
2. What other sound effects or props would show the audience what you would like to emphasize?
3. What simple costume choices will help your audience to differentiate among characters and to think about the characters in the way you would like?

4. If labor is uneven in your group, what suggestions can you offer so that everyone is participating fully?

Journal 3: Audience takeaways:

1. What do you want your audience to feel? How do those desires interact with what we know of tragedy? That is, given what you know about the plot of tragedy, what do you want the audience to experience? Is your scene one with dramatic irony adding tension (or humor)? Is your scene a place where the audience experiences the catharsis of emotions? Decide how your scene fits into the whole and articulate what effect you wish to create.

2. What more can your scene do to help create the desired effect?

Journal 4: Final journal:

1. What's going well in your group? What challenges are there? What's the best way to solve the challenges?
2. What final thoughts do you have about your scene? What's important that you haven't already said?