



DRAMATIC CONFLICT
Module Activities

Yes/No Game

- Pair up and for each pair decide who's "A" and who's "B."
 - If there's an uneven number, the odd person can be the observer.
- A and B are going to improvise a scene.
 - A's dialogue is exclusively "Yes"; B's is "No." That's all you say, "Yes" for A, "No" for B.
 - But each of you not only can but should repeat your "Yes" or "No" as often as you'd like.
 - Using only those two "lines of dialogue" repeated as often as needed, A attempts to convince/persuade B to change to "Yes."
 - To convince B to say "Yes" is A's urgent goal.
 - B's objective is to make A earn a "Yes."
- Switch up combinations so that all players get a chance at both roles.

Neutral Dialogue Intentions Exercise

- Get a partner and decide who's "A" and who's "B."
- "A" chooses an intention without informing "B." Possible intentions include:
 - Intimidate
 - Coerce
 - Entice
 - Seduce
 - Rally
 - Encourage
 - Persuade
 - Warn
 - An intention you create not on this list
- Play the scene.
 - "A" must make the intention clear – and strong – through the use of voice, body, face, and the use of space. (E.g., where might "A" stand in relationship to "B" if the intention is "to intimidate?" What about "encourage?")
 - Use only the following dialogue. No omissions or additions.
- When you're done, discuss whether "A" made the intention clear.
 - Did "B" in fact feel intimidated or enticed?
 - If yes, full marks to "A" for truthful acting.
 - If not, what other choices might "A" have used?
- You can keep coming back to this exercise and develop more nuance and precision.



THE DIALOGUE

A: So.

B: So what?

A: You know.

B: I don't.

A: Yes, you definitely do. And it needs to be now.

B: I'm lost.

A: Come on. No more stalling.

B: Really?

A: Yes.

Scene Writing Activities

- Estranged Parent and Adult Child
 - One has done something in the past that so distressed, so outraged the other that they have been estranged ever since. What was it and who did it? One of them shows up unexpectedly and seeks to reconcile. What happens?
 - Where does the scene take place?
 - Make sure both characters make a strong, passionate case for their respective points of view.

- Young Couple
 - One has done something well-intentioned, but so rash that it distresses the other and threatens the relationship. What was it? Can the couple reconcile?
 - Where does the scene take place?
 - Make sure both characters make a strong, passionate case for their respective points of view.