

Elements of Drama

Role and character, relationships, situation, voice, movement, focus, tension, space, time, language, symbol, audience, mood and atmosphere.

Role and character

The identification and portrayal of a person's values, attitudes, intentions and actions as imagined relationships, situations and ideas in dramatic action; role focus on type and stereotype; characters are detailed and specific.

Relationships

The connections and interactions between people that affect the dramatic action.

Situation

The setting and circumstances of the dramatic action – the who, what, where, when and what is at stake of the roles/characters.

Voice

Using voice expressively to create roles, situations, relationships, atmosphere and symbols.

Movement

Using facial expression, posture and action expressively in space and time to create roles, situations, relationships, atmosphere and symbols.

Focus

To concentrate the attention on a spatial direction or a point in space to intensify attention or increase the projection of intent. To direct and intensify attention and frame moments of dramatic action or to identify the main idea of the drama.

Tension

A sense of anticipation or conflict within characters or character relationships, or problems, surprise and mystery in stories and ideas to propel dramatic action and create audience engagement.

Space

The space of the performance and audience, fictional space of the dramatic action and the emotional space between characters.

Time

The fictional time in the narrative or setting; timing of one moment to the next contributing to the tension and rhythm of dramatic action.

Language

Ideas and dramatic meaning: the choice of linguistic expression and ideas in drama used to create dramatic action.

Symbol

Associations that occur when something is used to represent something else to reinforce or extend dramatic meaning.

Audience

Individuals or groups of people who experience the arts in a range of settings and contexts (formal, informal, virtual or interactive) through intellectual, emotional and social engagement. The artist is audience to their own artwork.

Mood and atmosphere

The feeling or tone of both the physical space and the dramatic action created by or emerging from the performance.

Dramatic Action

The driving force and forward motion of drama to create dramatic meaning, tension, belief and audience engagement. The movement of the drama from the introduction, exposition of ideas and conflict to a resolution.