

## **6 Steps to Learning a New Monologue**

### **1. Read the play**

- a. A monologue is out of context. There is so much character and situational information you will not get from a monologue book such as who your character is talking to and what happened in the moments before. Read the play and take notes.

### **2. Break it down**

- a. Choose one action verb that could be applied to the whole monologue.
- b. Break down the monologue into individual beats. Each time the action changes it is called a “beat.” Go through the monologue and mark each new thought with a slash (“/”)
- c. Attach an “action verb” to each individual beat

### **3. Create your “moment before”**

- a. What happened right before your monologue?
  - i. Where are you?
  - ii. Who is with you in the scene?
  - iii. What did another character say to your character to launch you into your monologue?

### **4. Learn the monologue - don't memorize**

- a. Read the monologue out loud, then put the paper face down and say as much of the monologue as you remember. Next, pick up the paper again and read the monologue out loud again, identifying what you remembered and what you forgot. Go back and forth between reading and performing. Using this method you will learn material faster and better understand what you're saying.
- b. Be sure you eventually learn the words exactly. Don't paraphrase at your audition!

### **5. Write out the monologue out by hand**

- a. Studies show writing by hand strengthens the learning process.
- b. You will quickly see where you are paraphrasing.

### **6. Create a strong beginning and end**

- a. Take time (5-10 seconds) before you start your monologue.
  - i. Close your eyes. Take a deep breath. Imagine your “moment before.”
  - ii. Open your eyes. Focus on a spot eye level (not right at any one person) and “see” the character you are speaking to. Begin your monologue.
- b. At the end of your monologue, make sure your last line feels final. Then gently drop your head, look straight at the people at the table, and say, “thank you.”