

FINDING YOUR VOICE

Background: Why did Shakespeare write plays instead of novels? Why does anyone write a story as a play to be performed? Plays inherently give away creative control: they are always collaborations between the author, the director, the actors, the stage designer, the costume designer, the audience. What dimension does that add to the work that wouldn't otherwise be there?

One of the things we've been examining is how the actors, with only their voices, can change the interpretation of a script. In this project, you'll not only become an expert on a portion of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and perform it, you'll also figure out how best to present your own unique voice. This project will be the last component of our I AM Career Project before we present our work.

Process:

- You will read *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and analyze it using journaling, vocal games, discussions, and film analysis.
- You will analyze the effects of vocal qualities (pitch, inflection, target, emphasis, volume, accent, and speed) on the interpretation of lines.
- You will choose and interpret a monologue, splitting it into its trains of thought and applying various voices to find 2 "best fit" ways of performing it. Your two ways will show a marked contrast in interpretation. You will perform this monologue both ways.
- You will evaluate what "interpretation" of yourself you'd want to convey at a job interview and plan the vocal qualities that could create such an interpretation.
- You will practice and sit for a practice job interview with a special guest!

Evaluation: You will not be graded on your physical acting (so no need for costumes, props, etc.), but on your vocal performance. I will judge your monologue based on your ability to separate trains of thought both on the page and in your performance, the quality of your vocal performance, and your interpretation of the text both on the page and in your performance. I will grade your interview based on your vocal interpretation of yourself, your physical interpretation of yourself (e.g. your appropriate dress), and your interviewer's comments about your performance. This is a 60-point project, with 10 points being devoted to each of the criteria mentioned above.

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EVALUATION RUBRIC

Trains of Thought: 10 points.	Quality of Vocal Performance: 10 points.	Interpretation of Text: 10 points.	Vocal Presentation During Interview: 10 points.	Physical Presentation During Interview: 10 points.	Interviewer's Comments: 10 points.
<p>You clearly identified them on the page and prepared a dynamic vocal performance that distinguished between them.</p>	<p>You "owned it" and performed your monologue with confidence, accuracy, and appropriate emotional content.</p>	<p>You understood the meaning of your monologue based on your written work with it, and your performance demonstrated your unique point of view on its meanings in the context of the play.</p>	<p>Your vocal performance during your interview conveyed confidence, a pleasant attitude, competence, and sophistication.</p>	<p>Your dress was professional, and you were attentive to how you presented yourself. You carried yourself with a strong, confident manner.</p>	<p>These points will be added or subtracted based on the interviewer's overall professional opinion of you as an interviewing candidate.</p>