

To Kill a Monologue

The different adaptations of *To Kill a Mockingbird* have endeared the story to actors and audiences. However, many (and by many, I mean me) complain that the adaptations fail to include powerful soliloquies for the actors.

So-lil-o-quy: an act of speaking one's thoughts aloud when by oneself or regardless of any hearers.

Write a theatrical monologue for one of the characters in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. (E.g., An enraged Bob Ewell explains why he must kill the Finch children.) You will be graded on characterization, point of view, and word choice.



Sarah Bernhardt, Public Domain

RL3: Analyze complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations).

W3A: Engage and orient the reader through point of view.

W3D: Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language.

PRE-WRITING

Character: (How can the monologue match the original character? Think about motivations, character traits, and point of view. What directions would you give the actor?)

Context: (Where and when is this monologue set?)

Content: (What does the character feel and have to say?)

Treatment: (Is the monologue perfectly aligned to the original novel or are you adding a new idea?)

Point of view / tone:

Elements of word choice: (Which will you emphasize?)

Figurative language, connotations, imagery (sensory details), allusion, sound devices, sense of time and place (dialogue, dialect, references), tone, and mood