**NC Young Playwrights Teacher Tips:**

The following tips are for teachers to use to encourage student writing and submission to the NC Young Playwrights Festival.

**Characters**:

* One act plays traditionally have small casts – three is a great number - creates triangle which can lead to interesting situations.
* If play requires a larger number of characters consider reusing actors
* If characters have strong wants and needs, the audience cares about them.
* Main characters go through a transformation – they change
* Strong conflicts/obstacles
* Stakes are high

**Setting:**

* This is a play not a movie. Encourage students to have one location. Have them to read examples of plays that take place in one setting.
* Tension seeps out through the cracks of scene changes. If students still write first drafts with 5 locations in 10-minute play, mediate responses from students as to which location seemed most essential, then ask the playwright to imagine it being in that one point in time.

**Tips for getting students to submit plays for Festival:**

* Receive training in teaching playwriting with NCTAE
* Use NC Young Playwrights Rubric, available on the NCTAE website, as a tool for you and students while students are writing plays.
* Consider plays submitted as class assignments.
* Collect plays from this year to submit next year – only for students who will return to your school next year. Students must be enrolled at your school at the time of submission.
* Remind students that plays will be read by NC teachers, and this a festival for both elementary and secondary schools. While we do not suggest censorship or that students should not explore mature subjects, we want students to consider the potential audience in their final edits.
* Do a staged reading of student work at your school for feedback.
* Swap scripts with another school for feedback and /or a staged reading.

**Elementary teachers: class playwriting projects are admissible!!**