

Drama in Senior Biographies

Building Character through Illuminating Characters: The Monologue Project
A Character Education Partnership (CEP) Promising Practice

South Brunswick High School
Monmouth Junction, New Jersey

Focus on Principles 3, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10 where core values and service are integrated into school public speaking classes and theatre production which offered students the opportunity for moral action, high engagement in learning, the development of intrinsic motivation and leadership and making connections to the broader community.
Grade Levels: 9-12



“Building Character Through Illuminating Characters: The Monologue Project” is an interdisciplinary and intergenerational project that combines history, writing, performance, and community service. Students interview community members, write monologues based on their stories, and perform the resulting theatre pieces for the community and the school. Last year, theatre students interviewed veterans and wrote their stories in monologue form. They then performed the monologues (acting as the veterans) for the veterans and their families at the senior citizen center. This year, one public speaking class interviewed senior citizens and community residents about immigration and changes in our township. From the interviews, they have crafted a theatre piece that will be performed at the senior center and the high

school. The other public speaking class interviewed students and staff members in our school to learn about different challenges they face. The resulting theatre piece will be presented as an assembly program. The projects help students develop listening skills, empathy, and understanding of the difficulties other people face. The performances give other students and the community the opportunity to share in the experience.

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