

The Monologue Audition
Dos and Don'ts

The Monologue Choice

Do	Don't
Choose a piece that is age appropriate <i>(For High School students that is 15-30 yrs)</i>	Choose something too old or too young <i>(Ex: Blanche in <u>Streetcar</u> or a child)</i>
Choose a piece from a published play.	Choose a piece from a monologue book, novel or film.
Choose a piece that is unique and fresh.	Choose a piece that is overdone. <i>(Ex: Neil Simon, Chris During, August Wilson's Rose from Fences)</i>
Choose a piece that sells who you are as a person and an actor.	Choose a piece that is too character heavy and masks you. If the characterization is too strong to see the actor through, then it is not a good choice. <i>(Ex: something with a strong dialect, character is mentally ill, under the influence etc.)</i>
Choose a piece that you can connect with. It should speak to you in some way.	Choose a piece that is outside of your emotional understanding. <i>(Ex: Dying babies if you don't have babies)</i>
Choose a piece that is active and has a strong objective.	Choose a piece that is a story or about someone who is not there.
Choose a piece that you enjoy performing.	Choose a piece because someone told you to.
Choose a piece that is school appropriate.	Choose a piece that has swearing or major adult content.
Choose a piece that is within your training.	Choose a Classical piece if you have not been trained in the performance of classical language. <i>(Unless it is required. If a classical piece is required, be sure you have the piece coached by someone who understands classical language performance.)</i>
Cut your piece to 90 seconds to 2 minutes in length.	Let your piece run shorter than a minute or over 2 minutes 30 seconds.

The Preparation

Do	Don't
Give yourself plenty of time to learn and rehearse the piece.	Memorize it the night before or on the way there.
Throw out a piece that just isn't working.	Hang onto a bad piece because you don't want to go to the trouble of finding a new one.
Plant your feet.	Wander and weight shift.
Keep the blocking simple.	Use too much staging. Use Props.
Keep gesture realistic.	Use parallel gesture or gestures that stay below your waist.
Read the play	Read the Cliff Notes

The Actual Audition

Do	Don't
Wear something that you look nice in but that you are comfortable moving in.	Wear short skirts, high heels, ties or anything that affects the way you move. If you can't crawl on the floor in it, then it is not the right outfit.
Bring extra copies of required materials. (Ex: headshots, resumes)	Offer materials unless they are requested.
Get your hair out of your face.	Look unkempt.
Warm up	Walk in cold off the street.
Introduce yourself with a slate that includes your name, the name of your play, the name of the playwright and the name of the character.	Introduce your piece with a summary of what is going on in the plot at the point of your piece.
Look the auditors in the eye when you are slating. Look at a focal point on the wall above them when you are acting.	Look at the auditors while you are acting.
Get a chair if you need one.	Ask if you can get a chair.
Work your way out of a mistake.	Ask to start over.
Thank your auditors.	Apologize, make excuses or ask them how you did.
Be confident	Be arrogant
Be yourself	Be tense