

## Young Playwrights for Change Year 4: Empathy in Action: Combating Bullying

### CREATIVE TIPS

Having trouble getting started on your script? Suffering from writer's block? Read on for some quick tips and strategies to get inspired or keep your creativity going.

#### ❖ Elements To Think About

- **Theme** - Think about the theme of combating bullying and how your play will address the theme. Is there a particular aspect of bullying you want to address—cyber bullying, peer pressure, physical or verbal bullying?
- **Setting** - Where is your play set? At a school? In your community? In the future or the past? In outer space? Get creative—your play can be set anywhere!
- **Characters** - You can have up to six characters in your play. Who are the characters you're working with? How do they feel about one another? What do they want? What are they afraid of? How do they feel about themselves? Interesting characters have thoughts, feelings, reactions to situations, and sometimes are unpredictable. Do the characters change over the course of your play?
- **Plot** - What happens to your characters over the course of your play? Is there a beginning, a middle, and an end? What is the central conflict or event in your play?

#### ❖ Brainstorming and Getting Started

- Create a "portrait" of your main character by making a list of words that describes him or her. Be as specific as possible.
- Try writing about a character's, worst day, or their favorite song, biggest fear, most treasured possession, person they admire, or a question they would ask another character
- Outlining or mapping out your story or plot before you actually start writing your script is a great way to begin. Try a written outline, or use a different strategy.
  - Try telling the story of what happens in your play to a friend or family member and repeat this a couple of different times so you get the feel for the important events you're imagining.
  - Create a storyboard with text and/or images, or even some kind of map. Use drawings, symbols, or doodles to represent events, characters, etc.
  - Or, try putting key scenes on separate sheets of paper and practice laying them out in different orders to experiment with the sequence of events.

#### ❖ What If I Get Stuck While Writing?

- Go back and read aloud what you have written so far. Sometimes reading out loud can give you fresh perspective or new ideas!
- Stuck on a particular scene or detail? Skip ahead or go back! Sometimes the order of your plot or sequence of events in your play is not the order in which you write your script.
- Find a friend or family member to read your work and give you some feedback.
- Take a break! Get up from the computer, take a stretch break, eat a snack, take a walk or just do something else for a little while. Then come back to your script with some fresh eyes.