

## How Virtual Dramas meet English Language Arts Standards for Teachers (from The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards)

**Standard I: Knowledge of Learners:** Accomplished English language arts teachers acquire knowledge about their students to advance students' learning in the English language arts and to prepare students for successful participation in the world.

**How a Virtual Radio Drama meets the Standard:** Playing theater games, rehearsing, writing commercials and performing all allow a teacher to get to know their students in a new and exciting way. The students will also get to know each other on a deeper and more substantial level.

**Standard II: Equity, Fairness and Diversity:** Accomplished English language arts teachers practice fairness and equity because of their commitment to the acceptance and appreciation of others. Accomplished teachers use a variety of strategies and materials to address disparities among students and provide meaningful learning opportunities that meet the diverse needs of all learners.

**How a Virtual Radio Drama meets the Standard:** All of the plays were written with diversity in mind. Most characters can be any race and many roles are gender flexible. Some of the scripts address environmental and social issues.

**Standard III: Learning Environment:** Using their understanding of the ways in which physical and relational factors combine in the classroom, accomplished English language arts teachers purposefully design inclusive learning environments that engage, challenge, and support student learning.

**How a Virtual Radio Drama meets the Standard:** Risk taking, independent and collaborative work is inherent in acting. Zoom is a difficult environment in which to learn. Playing theater games, rehearsing, writing commercials and performing via Zoom is a way to make that environment work for you and engage the students in a new and exciting way.

**Standard IV: Instructional Design and implementation:** Accomplished English language arts teachers use their knowledge of students, their discipline, and pedagogy to design and implement instruction that promotes the learning of all students

**How a Virtual Radio Drama meets the Standard:** This is a main motivation for creating the Radio Dramas web-site – to provide a rich new teaching resource. Rehearsing and performing a radio show is tailored to collaborative work, but also fosters independent thinking as student develop their character. And certainly, there's nothing like theater to celebrate the power of language.

**Standard V: Reading and Viewing:** Accomplished English language arts teachers engage their students in reading and viewing a wide range of texts. Teachers support all students in developing the dispositions and proficiencies necessary for comprehending, analyzing, evaluating, and appreciating the texts.

**How a Virtual Radio Drama meets the Standard:** Text work is a part of an actors rehearsal process. Actor students will study their lines and the text of the play according to their level of knowledge and education. Rehearsing a play fosters deep discussion on values, intentions, motivations and about audience reaction to the text.

**Standard VI: Writing and Producing:** Accomplished English language arts teachers provide instruction in the processes, skills, and knowledge about writing that their students will need to effectively produce a variety of texts for a range of audiences and purposes.

**How a Virtual Radio Drama meets the standard:** Radio shows historically include commercials. Use a radio drama to show off student writing skills by creating original commercials for the play.

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**Standard VII: Speaking and Listening:** Accomplished English language arts teachers equip students to become effective communicators by strengthening their speaking and listening skills for various purposes within a broad range of contexts.

**How a Virtual Radio Drama meets the Standard:** Rehearsing and performing a Radio show is an ideal way for students to develop public speaking skills. As well, active listening is how an actor knows how to react to their fellow actors. The timing required to perform also facilitates active listening skills

**Standard VIII: Language Study:** Accomplished English language arts teachers develop their students' appreciation of the functional and aesthetic aspects of language and expand their students' capacity to use language effectively.

**How a Virtual Radio Drama meets the Standard:** Actors involved in all theatrical performances study the language of the text in the script. The level of analysis can meet a student wherever they land on the educational ladder.

**Standard IX: Inquiry:** Through inquiry, accomplished English language arts teachers foster dispositions in students to examine multiple perspectives; promote a process that prompts students to ask critical questions; encourage students to act on what they have learned; and equip students with the tools needed to examine, organize, manage, and analyze information.

**How a Virtual Radio Drama meets the Standard:** Playing a character and interacting with other characters in a Radio show develops an understanding for that character on a deep level. Students can experience others lives by 'becoming' them. This creates empathy and compassion. As well, students are required to ask questions about themselves as a character, fostering a richer level of personal understanding.

**Standard X: Assessment:** Accomplished English language arts teachers create and select valid assessment tools as part of an ongoing process of monitoring and evaluating student learning. Teachers use assessment results to provide meaningful feedback to students, engage students in self-assessment, shape instructional decisions, and communicate to various stakeholders.

**How a Virtual Radio Drama meets the Standard:** Assessment, modification and improvement defines the rehearsal process. That what it's about – doing, discussing, exploring, redoing, improving, repeat. The final recording of the performance can also be assessed by the audience and actors themselves.

**Standard XI: Collaboration:** Accomplished English language arts teachers collaborate to improve instruction and student learning, advance the knowledge and practice of the field, enhance their professional identities, and foster collaboration in their classrooms and beyond.

**How a Virtual Radio Drama meets the Standard:** Collaboration is what theater is all about. Bring in other teachers to help your actors with the skills they need, with character development, with editing help, with play selection, with performance assessment and so much more.

**Standard XII: Advocacy:** Accomplished English language arts teachers advocate for their students, for the content of English language arts, and for their profession.

**How a Virtual Radio Drama meets the Standard:** Show your community what your students can do! Put your recorded performance on the internet for all to listen. Create new opportunities for students, parents and your community to share in this imaginative Radio Drama experience.