

Support Your Partner

Scenic Improv

Grades 11-12 & up

Educational Objective: The students will demonstrate their ability to support their partner by performing the first moment of a scene and checking out what they did and then focusing their partners.

Materials Needed: Slips of paper and two containers.

Hook: Have two players start a scene by doing something. And then tell them to support each other. Observe what happens.

Step 1: Explain that in order to support their partner they must support what the partner did and how they did it. Let's say your partner is angry. Then to support that choice you need to do everything you can to make him even angrier.

Step 2: Give everyone two slips of paper. Have everyone write something "to do" to start a scene and a "how." Collect them in a container. Have each pair draw two slips from each container and then have them perform and take turns initiating the scene while the other one supports. Then switch. Coach the support.

Step 3: Explain that in order to support your partner one of the biggest things you can do is decide your "how" right at the start. Say your character has a cold. Well whatever your partner does to initiate the scene you support it by having made your strong choice of having a cold and keeping that throughout the scene. Everything your partner says and does you can now filter through your cold choice. Switch the pairs around and have everyone do scenes and have one initiate by doing something and the other making a strong "how" choice that he will use the entire scene. Have everyone perform.

Step 4: Discuss what they've done and learned. What was good and bad?