Antigone Tragedy Project

**Introduction**:  Greek Tragedy is an outdated form of entertainment, however many elements are still in place today.  It is, however, very unlikely to see a modern story told in the original Greek tragedy style.  Your mission is to bring this back.

**Objectives:**

**-**Students will write and perform a story in the original Greek tragedy style

-Students will demonstrate an understanding of Greek Tragedy conventions including, (but not limited to) Deus Ex Machina, Tragic Hero, Masks, Chorus, Soliloquies, Morality Stories etc.

**Instructions:**

**1. Choose a popular story you wish to convert into a Greek Tragedy.**

**(ex. The 3 Little Pigs).  You may also choose to tell the sequel to an existing story.**

**2. Using (roughly) the original plot, rewrite the story in Greek Tragedy formation.**

**3. Assign Roles and practice your piece.  Ideally, you will have costume pieces, props, perhaps a background, etc.**

**4. Perform your show for the class.  Feel free to have them guess your story or ask them to identify the major elements.  The story/scene must be at least 7-10 minutes long.**

**Rubric:**

Complete Script Submitted (Typed, formal English, creative)-                      \_\_\_\_\_40pts

Presentation Skills (Volume, Enthusiasm, Diction)-                                         \_\_\_\_\_\_20 pts

Understanding of Greek Tragedy (Tragic Hero, Tone, Chorus, Masks, etc)- \_\_\_\_\_40 pts

                                                                                                            Total:     \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/100

Step 1: Brainstorm

**Instructions:**

**Pick a story that is well-known and simple.  Use these questions to help Brainstorm:**

**1.** Is the story well-known?  Would most of the audience, and Mr. Harrold, be familiar with it?  Explain.

2. Is the story simple enough to perform in class?  Is it manageable in the time allotted? Explain.

3. Are there enough characters for everyone in the group to participate? Who are they?

4. Is there a possible “tragic hero”?  Is there room for a “chorus”?  What will the Deus Ex Machina be?  Explain.

5. Is there a clear, tragic, lesson to be learned from the telling of this story? Explain.

**When finished, please write which story you have chosen and why.  Be detailed.  Get approval when finished before writing the script:**

Step 2: Script

**Instructions: Write a Script for your show.  Complete this checklist:**

**\_\_\_Tragic Hero** (Someone who starts from a position of power, has a downfall)

\_\_\_ **Chorus** (A group of “narrators” who speak to the actors and audience with advice)

\_\_\_ **Deus Ex Machina (**A plot device that “magically” solves the problem)

\_\_\_ **Moral (**Some lesson about life, preferable dark and tragic)

\_\_\_ **Masks/Togas/Style (**Does it seem like a Greek play?)

\_\_\_ **Monologues, not Action** (Remember, heavy on the dramatic dialogue, light on action).

\_\_\_ **Dramatic Irony (**Does the audience know what will happen before the characters?)

**The final script should be typed, use proper grammar, spelling, and mechanics and appear neat and polished.**

Step 3: Rehearse and Present

**Instructions:** Even though we are short on time and scripts are allowed, scenes are much better without them.  Practice many times to avoid the use of scripts in your scene and maintain adequate volume and interesting characters.

Remember, presentations are graded not only on your understanding of Greek Tragedy, but your acting ability, and overall product.