Masquerade

**Introduction**: In the story, Lord of the Flies, characters begin to paint their faces in order to conceal their “old selves” and act in a new way. Masks can be positive or negative, helpful or hurtful, good or evil. Some masks allow people to do great things while others force them to break their moral codes. In this activity, we will explore the power of “masks” and their location in everyday life.

**Instructions**:

1. In your group, come up with a scenario or a situation in which people wear masks and hide their identities for some sort of gain. Examples are provided below
2. Write a skit, which depicts this scenario. The skit must involve all members of the group.
3. Perform your skit for the class. You may use scripts but bonus points will given for memorized skits.
4. The audience must guess what each “mask” represents in the skits.

**Skit Requirements:**

* All members must participate
* The skit must have a beginning, middle and end
* The skit must have some sort of situation in which one or more characters wears a mask in order to solve a problem or deal with an experience
* Group members must wear the physical masks whenever the characters wear the “Mask”.
* Explain why

**Examples**: (Do not limit yourself to these examples. They are just a start.)

* A person at work must “wear a mask” to fit in.
* A football player needs to “wear a mask” to lead his team.
* A shy student “wears a mask” in order to be popular.
* A spy “wears a mask” in order to gain intelligence.
* A hunter “wears a mask” in order to catch prey

**Skit Brainstorming**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Who?**  (Describe your character(s). Who is he/she?) |  |
| **Where?**  What is the setting of the situation? Describe the time, location and background |  |
| **What?**  What is the problem? How will the problem be addressed throughout the skit? What “mask” is worn? |  |
| **Why?**  Why do the characters need to wear the mask? What does the mask allow them do? What does it allow them to hide? |  |

**Rubric**

\_\_\_\_\_\_/15 points

\_\_\_\_/5- Brainstorming sheet and Script submitted

\_\_\_\_/5- Content

-Mask meanings were clear

-Story had a beginning, middle and end

- There was a conflict, which was addressed during the plot line

- Characters are believable, dialogue is intelligent and situation is interesting

\_\_\_\_/5- Delivery

-Clear volume

- Dramatic acting

- Obvious Rehearsal

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**Reflection Questions**

1. What was the situation your group chose to address? What made you chose this situation?
2. Explain the “Mask”? Which characters wore masks throughout the skit?
3. As an actor, did you feel differently acting without a physical mask on as opposed to wearing a mask? Why do you think that is?
4. As an audience member, what did the “masked” characters all have in common? Explain.
5. Opinion: Do you think “masks” are more helpful or hurtful in society? Explain your answer.