**Auditioning Do’s and Don’ts**

**DON’Ts**

**No spoken word pieces or comedy routines**

It is very hard to tell whether you are acting or just imitating someone.

**No phone conversations.**

Your focus should be on the audience, not a prop.

**Do not write your own monologue.**

This is not about self-expression; it is about showing off your acting talent.

**Do not recite a poem or a song.**

This never works out, and songs especially end up sounding weird because people try to match the rhythm without singing.

**Do not explain your monologue.**

If it needs an explanation to be understood, you should choose a different monologue.

**Accents do not equal acting.**

Do not use one unless I have asked you to.

**Do not go over the time limit.**

I will cut you off. Also, do not ask me beforehand if a monologue is long enough or too long. You are capable of timing the monologue yourself.

**Any questionable language must be approved by me.**

I will cut you off and your audition will be over if you use language that is not appropriate for school. Using vulgarity does not show that you are capable of handling mature content – it just shows that you are willing to swear.

**Never apologize before or after performing.**

Don’t say, “This isn’t as good as I would like it,” or “Sorry, I haven’t had much time to practice this.”

**Do not give excuses.**

I don’t care if you have a cold or if you were up all night working on your monologue.

**Never, ever say “Scene!” at the end of your monologue.**

Put your head down for a moment to indicate that you are finished, then say “thank you.” Do not immediately walk off – I may ask you about your monologue. Wait until I have said “thank you” back.

**DO’s**

**Choose something that you like!**

Your piece should be something that you connect to, or something that moves you. If you don’t like your monologue, I probably won’t either.

**Show a variety of emotion.**

Find a monologue that allows you to show at least two different emotions. I want to see that you can portray more than one emotion.

**Vary your intensity.**

Do not stay on the same level, emotionally or vocally. You should have both quiet and loud moments. Also, remember that loud doesn’t necessarily mean intense. A person seething with anger could be very quiet and controlled.

**Read the play.**

You should know what you are auditioning for.

**Choose a monologue that matches the tone of the play.**

What is the tone of the play? See the previous suggestion.

**Know who your character is talking to.**

Make a specific choice. Not just the character’s father, but the character’s father who has been away for two years and never called home or sent a letter.

**Know what your character’s objective is.**

What does the character want from the person s/he is talking to?

**Perform your monologue for someone.**

Your audition should not be the first time you have performed your monologue in front of someone. Ask their opinion and try out their suggestions.

**Experiment.**

Try performing your monologue in as many different ways as you can think of.

**Relax.**

I know, this can be difficult. Remember, the outcome of this audition does not determine your worth. It is not a judgment of who you are. Your life will not be ruined if you are not cast.

**Enjoy the experience.**

Yes, this is even more difficult than relaxing. But remember: you are doing something that more than 90% of students at McIntosh would never dream of doing. If nothing else, take pride in the fact that you have the courage to stand up in front of me and your peers and share a bit of yourself and your passion.