

Teacher Tool 71: Let's Talk Trash Study Guide

Study Guide for Theater 12: Let's Talk Trash

Program Description and Objectives	Page 2
Program Format	Page 3
Standards	Page 4
Program-Related Activity Suggestions and Supplemental Resources	Page 5
“Let’s Talk Trash” Project Instructions	Page 6

Educate.Today 
Innovate · Illuminate · Inspire

HEC-TV Live! Presents
Let's Talk Trash
Produced in Collaboration with Metro Theater Company

Original Air Date: January 14, 2014

Grade Levels: 5-9

Program Description:

What do environmental awareness, community activism, and theater have in common? What inspires a young person to get involved in his community and make a difference in the lives of his friends, family and people he's never met? Where do ideas for plays come from? What inspires a person to take pen to paper or fingers to laptop? And how do these four questions link together? To find out, view this program archive.

Interact with the playwright and the young man whose environmental work inspired him so much that he is creating a brand-new play for young audiences to be produced by Metro Theater Company. Learn about the young man's project and why it means so much to him to help the environment. Find out how this young man's message of community activism is being utilized by a playwright to help form the message he wants to send through the medium of theater for young people. See scenes from the play in progress. Meet and interact with young people making a difference with their environmental projects designed to reduce, reuse or recycle the trash created in their communities. Learn how projects such as those can inspire theatrical productions designed to get a community thinking about important issues of human interaction and the environment.

Program Objectives:

Students will:

1. Engage in critical and creative thinking.
2. Interact with theatrical professionals and learn first-hand what it takes to create a new play from scratch.
3. Learn about the power of community involvement and the power of live theater and how the two can work together to get others thinking about a message that matters to you.
4. Develop an answer for themselves to the question: "What does it mean to be environmentally aware and what can I do to be better at it?"

Program Format:

The archived program consists of the following segments. Student questions and comments are included throughout the program. [Time codes are provided in blue to help you find specific program segments.](#)

1. Welcome and Introduction—Student groups and experts will be introduced and welcomed to the program. [\(00:00 to 09:10\)](#)

- A. Hear excerpt from the play (description, stage directions, and lines)
- B. Meet playwright and cast members
- C. Learn the inspiration for the play

2. One Young Man’s Story—In this segment, we meet Sam Klein and learn what inspired him to become environmentally aware and find out about the community project he developed and how far it’s come in just a few short years. Audience questions are included along with video and images related to Sam and his non-profit organization, Recycle Charity Group. [\(09:11 to 28:10\)](#)

- A. Sam Then
- B. Sam Now

3. One Playwright’s Story—In this segment, we meet playwright Nick Kryah who was inspired by Sam’s project and is in the process of creating his own play to convey his own message of becoming involved. During this segment we also hear from Metro Theater’s Artistic Director Julia Flood and Dr. Megan Alrutz, the dramaturg working with Nick as he creates the play. Students will see videos related to the topics below as well as another scene from the play in progress. [\(Points A, B and C below 28:11 to 42:43\)](#)

- A. The Beginnings of the Playwriting Process
 - 1. Translating inspiration from the mind to the page
 - 2. Play taking on a life of its own
 - 3. Getting it to a point for others to read and respond to
- B. Working with a Dramaturg
- C. Workshopping the Play
- D. Scene From the Latest Version of the Play [\(42:44 to 50:51\)](#)

4. Summary and Closing—We summarize the major themes and ideas we have learned about today, answer final student questions, say thanks and good-bye. [\(50:52 to 57:57\)](#)

Featured National Standards:

The following **Common Core Standards for English/Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects** are referenced in this program:

Grades 3-6 College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Reading

7. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

Grades 3-6 College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Writing

6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.
7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

Grades 3-6 College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Speaking and Listening

1. Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
2. Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.
3. Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.
4. Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
5. Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding of presentations.

Grades 3-6 College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Language

6. Acquire and use accurately a range of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when encountering an unknown term important to comprehension or expression.

Program-Related Activity Suggestions:

These activity suggestions are provided to help you prepare students for viewing the archived program or for additional exploration/extension after viewing the archive. Please select the ones that work best for your students, your time schedule, and your curriculum.

1. Hear One Playwright's Process—To hear from playwright Nick Kryah on various ideas related to his playwriting process, view any of the videos below available on Educate.Today:

Theatre 1: What is a Playwright?

Theater 2: Where Ideas Come From

Theater 3: Influence of Being an Actor, Director, and Designer on Playwriting

Theater 4: On Working with a Dramaturg

Theater 5: On Creating Characters and Character Names

Theater 6: The Process of Workshopping a Play

Theater 7: What I Want the Audience to Walk Away With

2. Hear from a Dramaturg—To learn more about what a dramaturg like Dr. Megan Alrutz does to help a playwright, view either of the videos below available on Educate.Today:

Theater 8: What is a Dramaturg?

Theater 9: The Excitement of Being a Dramaturg

3. What I Learned—Have students journal about new information they learned or a new insight they gained as a result of their participation in the program. If they wish, have students share their entries with each other. If students would like to share an insight with, or send a thank you to, any of the program's panelists, you may e-mail them to us at live@hectv.org.

4. Share Your Environmental Project—If your students have an environmental project you'd like to share to inspire others, we invite you to send us a video about your project that we can post on our Educate.Today website with other materials related to this program. More details on this activity are included at the end of this document.

Supplemental Resources:

Learn more about our program collaborator Metro Theater Company at their website, <http://metrotheatercompany.org>.

Learn more about Sam Klein and his non-profit Recycle Charity Group at <http://recyclecharitygroup.org>.

Share Your “Let’s Talk Trash” Project Teacher Instructions

The purpose of this activity is to provide students the opportunity to share an environmental project they have done either individually or at school related to the environmental message of the play, “Let’s Talk Trash.”

To Publish on Our Program Materials Page with the Archived Program: To be considered for publication on our website, please send us an e-mail to live@hectv.org with a short description of the project (150 words or less) and how you would like to submit the presentation for publication on the website (either as a video or a PowerPoint or similar software presentation). Presentations cannot be longer than 2 minutes and must have clear narration and images. You and your students must have created all elements of the presentation yourselves; no elements of the presentation should come from other sources. Language and images must be appropriate for broadcast to an audience of elementary, middle school, or high school students. Overall quality of the presentation must make it worthy for publication.

If you wish to be considered for publication on the website, we’ll reply to your e-mail inquiry with any questions we may have as well as how you can send your presentation to us for us to consider for publication. Videos may be mailed to us on a DVD or submitted via an FTP server at our TV station. If you choose to submit a video, we will provide you the mailing address when we respond to your previous “intent” e-mail.

When you contact us (whether it’s to be part of the live program or to be published on the website), please be sure to include the following information:

1. Name of School
2. Teacher Name
3. Name(s) and Grade Level of Student(s) involved in the project
4. Name(s) and Grade Level of Student(s) who are giving the presentation (whether speaking live during the program or appear on the video submitted)

Please note that, if selected, the presentation will be published on the Educate.Today website. All involved should be aware that when the video/PowerPoint is submitted for consideration, they are giving permission for that publication to occur.

If you have any questions about this activity, please do not hesitate to e-mail us at live@hectv.org.