Comedy Presentations

With your group, you will read the comedy you chose at the beginning of the semester. You are responsible for getting your own copies of the play. If the play is in translation, make sure you decide as a group which translation you will use. Make arrangements to meet with your group before or after school or during academic lab. I have scheduled one supervised planning day. If your group wants extra help, make an appointment to meet with me during academic lab or after school before you present your play to the class.

Requirements

1. Read the play. Identify all of the elements of drama and comedy that you can. (Character, Plot, Theme, Setting, etc.)

2. Pick out a few parts or scenes to perform for the class. Choose scenes that you feel will give the class a basic understanding of the play. It is probably best to pick high interest scenes from the beginning, middle (climax) and end of the play so that the class gets a feel for the entire play.

3. Rehearse the scene that you will perform so that they are well-practiced, choreographed and blocked (with all necessary props). Also rehearse the introductions (things to look for, importance of the scene, etc.) and plot summaries between each scene so that the presentation runs smoothly.

4. Have questions (open-ended discussion types) to ask the class that will force them to think critically about the play.

5. Research background about the play including (but not limited to) biographical information about the playwright, historical context of the play, historical context of the theater.

6. Share your analysis of the play with the class. Point out important features like theme, motifs, characterization, importance of setting, climax, resolution, irony, flashbacks (and other intricacies of plot).

7. You should have handouts or overheads for the class (character sheet, quote sheet, summary sheet) to use as teaching aids. If you want me to copy them you must give them to me the class before you need them. Otherwise Kinkos is open 24 hours a day—procrastinators should become familiar with their fast and friendly service!

8. You should have some sort of assessment tool for homework. For example you can give a study guide or a journal write—something that will show you (and me) that the class understands the play you presented. It should not be merely factual questions; include probing, analytical questions that require higher order thinking skills.
Outline of Sample Presentation for *Oedipus Rex*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>time</th>
<th>requirement</th>
<th>specifics</th>
<th>presenter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:10</td>
<td>background</td>
<td>explain Greek idea of fate, culture, drama</td>
<td>Emily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:15</td>
<td>background</td>
<td>Sophocles: life, works, philosophy</td>
<td>Avery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:20</td>
<td>introduction</td>
<td>plot summary beginning of play through page 12 and introduction of scene</td>
<td>Daniel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30</td>
<td>acting</td>
<td>pages 12-14</td>
<td>all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:35</td>
<td>discussion</td>
<td>questions about 12-14 and analysis</td>
<td>Madeleine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45</td>
<td>introduction</td>
<td>plot summary 14-22 and introduction of scene</td>
<td>Emily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:50</td>
<td>acting</td>
<td>pages 22-25</td>
<td>all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:55</td>
<td>discussion</td>
<td>questions about 22-25 and analysis</td>
<td>Avery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:05</td>
<td>introduction</td>
<td>plot summary 25-40 and introduction of scene</td>
<td>Daniel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:10</td>
<td>acting</td>
<td>pages 40 to end</td>
<td>all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:15</td>
<td>discussion</td>
<td>questions about 40 to end and analysis</td>
<td>Madeleine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:20</td>
<td>discussion</td>
<td>questions and analysis of play as a whole</td>
<td>Emily and Daniel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30</td>
<td>homework</td>
<td>explain homework and give assignment</td>
<td>Avery</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: Your presentation should be based on your own needs. I just used round numbers for convenience. You should time your own presentations and see how long it takes.