



Three student playwrights will be selected to have the opportunity to workshop their plays through in-person or virtual mentoring sessions with theatre professionals. Each selected play will be performed as a staged reading during the Arkansas State Thespian Festival.

What is the Deadline?

You may start sending submissions starting Saturday, September 11th. Last day to send a submission will be **Wednesday, October 27th**. This will allow time for submissions to be carefully considered in time for registration in early December. Troupe Directors will be notified by late-November of selection results.

Who is Eligible to Submit a Play?

Any current Thespian member still in high school.

What are the Content Requirements?

1. Plays must be the original work of one individual (no collaborative works or adaptations of pre-existing material will be considered); can be of any subject matter.
2. A script must be a self-contained play with a clear beginning, middle and end; pieces of a longer work-in-progress nature will not be accepted.
3. Musicals are not allowed at this time.
4. Plays must be appropriate for high school students. (No "R" rated scripts will be considered.)

What are the Length Requirements?

Plays should be a maximum length of approximately 15 minutes; (approx. 15 pages typed)

What are the Formatting Requirements?

Plays must be formatted according to the instructions at this link:

[STAGE PLAY FORMAT](#)

What are the Submission Procedures?

1. Submit only ONE playscript per student.
2. Submission must be typed in 12 Point Courier New.
3. Scripts will ONLY be accepted in a PDF format. Follow this link and fill out the Google form to submit: <https://forms.gle/99hh8WeW9FtwkV2y8>
 - a. If this form does not work for you or you do not have a Google account, email your script to mpeoples@bentonvillek12.org

4. On the cover page of each script, type the following information:
 - a. Title of your play
 - b. Your name and mailing address (you may use your school's address)
 - c. Your email address (may use parent's email address)
 - d. Thespian troupe number and name of your school
 - e. Troupe director and their contact info (email and phone number)
5. Troupe directors will be contacted after the script consideration process is completed.

What is the Quality Control Form? All submissions must include a completed Quality Control form signed by your Troupe Director that states they have read the play and can attest that it is appropriate, original and in compliance with all requirements.

- ❖ You can find this form on **page 4** of this packet.

What happens if your play is selected for Festival? All selected playwrights will participate in a series of development workshops with an industry professional in which they will have the opportunity to improve and strengthen their play through revisions and in exploring directorial choices. Each play will receive a staged reading open to all Festival participants. Each selected playwright's troupe must provide the appropriate number of actors for this staged reading.

How is a play copyright-protected? All work is protected by copyright the moment it is created and the writer retains exclusive control of their material. By submitting the work, the playwright agrees to allow Arkansas Thespians to mount a staged reading and for professionals and Festival participants to critique the play.

Who do I contact with questions?

- ❖ Your Troupe director should facilitate any general questions you have about the Festival.
- ❖ Specific questions about Arkansas Playworks can be sent to:
Matt Peoples (Troupe Director for Bentonville – 3430):
mpeoples@bentonvillek12.org

Are there any resources available?

- ❖ Keep checking the Arkansas Thespians website for links to valuable resources. Troupe Directors will also be forwarded some lesson plan materials they can share with their students.
- ❖ There is a plethora of websites and excellent books out there about the craft of playwriting; this website is a great place to start: <https://pwcenter.org/playwriting-toolkit>
- ❖ One of the best things to do as an aspiring playwright is to READ plays. Have fun becoming aware of the heavy hitters:

- **Arthur Miller**
- **Tennessee Williams**
- **Caryl Churchill**
- **Suzan-Lori Parks**
- **Edward Albee**
- **Anton Chekhov**
- **William Shakespeare**
- **Bertolt Brecht**

- **Henrik Ibsen**
- **August Wilson**
- **David Ives**
- **Lorraine Hansberry**
- **Lisa Loomer**
- **Gina Gionfriddo**
- **Tracy Letts**
- **Theresa Rebeck**

Arkansas Playworks Rubric

Student Name _____

Title _____

Each Question will be Answered by one of the following:

Scale: 0=No; 1=Somewhat; 2=Yes

	<u>Performance</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1.	Is the piece free of any culturally insensitive material? Is it appropriate for high school students?		
2.	Does the piece have well detailed stage directions that include every entrance and exit and all major physical actions?		
3.	Does the piece include expository information that clearly and concisely establishes the setting and location of the piece?		
4.	Does the piece include expository information that establishes important given circumstances for each of the main characters?		
5.	Does the writer clearly establish unique “voices” for each of their characters?		
6.	Does the writer successfully sustain each character’s “voice” throughout the piece?		
7.	Does the piece include at least one significant character discovery (turn around) – or Reversal of Fortune?		
8.	Do the characters seem to have conflicting Objectives that provide the play with momentum and drive?		

Additional Observations:

Arkansas Thespian Playworks

Quality Control Form Requirements Checklist ✓

	1. Submission must be typed in 12 Point Courier New.
	2. Scripts will only be accepted as digital PDF's. Upload them to the Playworks Google Form.
	3. Script is correctly formatted according to the Playworks guidelines.*
	4. On the cover page of your play include the following info:
	a. Title of your play
	b. Your name and mailing address (you may use your school's address)
	c. Your email address (may use parent's email address)
	d. Thespian troupe number and name of your school
	e. Troupe director and their contact info (email and phone number)

The Troupe Director's signature below verifies they have read the entire play and can confirm that it does not contain any culturally insensitive or otherwise inappropriate material and that the script is representative of the student's highest quality of work.

Troupe Director verifies that the student has checked off all items on the below Checklist to ensure they have met the requirements for submission.

<u>Troupe Director's Signature:</u>	
<u>Date:</u>	

***Formatting Example (and instructions) can be found at this link:**
<http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/writersroom/scripts/stageus.pdf>