

# **HSPVA THEATRE DEPARTMENT**

## **ARC TIPS**

**The purpose of the arc is to chart the progressing changes in the inner life of the character and to clarify the reasons for those changes.**

**1) Beat Before - What is happening that makes the first line come out of need?**

**2) Start by quoting/listing each line or phrase in the monologue in which the character is changing or changing tactics. If this is the arc of the character in the play, what happened that caused the change?**

**3) Can we tell how the character is changing and what causes the changes?**

**4) Describe the tactics the character is using to influence or change the "other".**

**5) What does the character want or feel that causes the tactics to change? Can we tell what the character is fighting FOR? (**OBJECTIVES**)**

**6) Are the obstacles clear? Clarify what the character is fighting AGAINST.**

**7) What is the "other" DOING or what has happened that is causing your character to change their feelings or tactics?**

**8) Label the "Turning Point" or "Climax".**

**9) Be sure there is adequate contrast from the starting point to the finish.**

**One of the requirements, therefore, is to decide what the "other" is doing. You will make that up based on the text, unless the playwright has given you enough info. Then you will see it in your imagination. This is the "pinch". Write those choices on your arc. For instance:**

**"Line", then make up that the "other" spits at the character or slaps or walks away; which results in your character's response or new tactic or change in feelings or objectives.**

**It is OK for you to write the arc in the form of a list. If you do that, please type it, if at all possible. And please be sure to include the information asked for in the top section of the arc form.**