



***Macbeth: A Talk Show Experience!***

**Grade:** 10

**Time:** 30 minutes

| CONCEPTS      | ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS ADDRESSED IN THIS ACTIVITY:<br><i>The student will understand that</i>  |
|---------------|---|
| Elaboration   | Elaboration is a process in which explanation is thought out and/or organized with thoroughness and careful attention to detail.                                |
| Clarification | Clarification makes something clearer by explaining it in greater detail  |
| Topic         | A topic might be a theme, a subject, or an issue.   |
| Purpose       | A purpose is a desired effect, goal, or intended outcome of something. Example: The purpose of the law is to control pollution.                                 |
| Perspective   | A perspective is a particular evaluation of a situation or facts, especially from one person's point of view.   |
| Point of view | Somebody's way of thinking about or approaching a subject, as shaped by his or her own character, experience, mindset, and history is his or her point of view. |

**Common Core Standards:**

**[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1.A](#)**

Come to discussions prepared, having read and researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence from texts and other research on the topic or issue to stimulate a thoughtful, well-reasoned exchange of ideas.

**[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1.C](#)**

Propel conversations by posing and responding to questions that relate the current discussion to broader themes or larger ideas; actively incorporate others into the discussion; and clarify, verify, or challenge ideas and conclusions.

**[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1.D](#)**

Respond thoughtfully to diverse perspectives, summarize points of agreement and disagreement, and, when warranted, qualify or justify their own views and understanding and make new connections in light of the evidence and reasoning presented.

**Objective:**

Students will be able to deliver a clear, coherent interview performance using allusions to *Macbeth* and diction suitable for their character roles.

**Materials Needed:**

- Computer with Internet access for teacher to show introductory video
- Projection of computer screen so students can view introductory video as a class
- Handout that outlines the activity (for each student)
- Each student should have access to their device or sheets of paper to script their interview questions and responses
- Each student should have a copy (text or digital) of *Macbeth*

**Introduction (3 minutes):**

- The teacher will introduce the activity by asking students a rhetorical question. ( e.g. "You all like talk shows, right? Today, we're going to be doing a talk show of our own... Featuring... *Macbeth*."
- The teacher will show, starting the clip at 1:15 ([Macbeth Interview Teaser](#))
- Tell students that they are going to create a talk show.
- Why talk shows? Talk shows bring dynamics to life; the audience gets a sense of the characters through their language and how they interact with other characters.
- Following the clip, immediately give students a copy of the guidelines and explain them as needed.
- Give students time to look over the guidelines.
- Remind students that they will have 10 minutes to write their scripts, and 3 minutes to perform in front of the class.

**Procedure (10 minutes to brainstorm script):**

- The teacher will randomly number off students into groups of 5 or 6.
- While being numbered off, students will also say a number, "1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, 6A, 1B, 2B, 3B, etc" (each time they get to 6 and start over, at 1, the letter changes).
- Each group will have assigned scenes and characters.
- Explain what students will do:
  1. Students can change roles if they want but that the person who had the letter corresponding to a character has first claim at being that character; they are welcome to bring in information from other scenes as they act out their characters.
  2. Use specific events from *Macbeth* as you decide what questions to ask and what answers will be given. Write a script!

3. Questions must be relevant to the characters' portrayal in *Macbeth*
  4. \*\*\*\*It is imperative that the guests “stay in character.”
  5. At least three questions should be asked and answered during the performance.
- While students are working, the teacher will circulate around the room to make sure they are staying on task and to answer any questions that might arise.
  - Group PERFORMANCES (**about 5 minutes each**)!

**Summary/Conclusions:**

Ask students if they were surprised by anything. Ask if there was any part of this activity that was particularly hard/challenging.

**Evaluation**

Assessment—The teacher will review the students’ handout/script after the performances, I will be looking to see how much thought they put into their responses (considering accuracy of textual allusions and characterization).

## *Macbeth: A Talk Show Experience!*

Group #1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



**Scene: Act 5 scene 1 - Lady Macbeth's Hysteria (Is she "Maniac Macbeth"?)**

See if putting Lady Macbeth on the couch after this scene could help her regain her senses. Script an interview exchange between Lady Macbeth, and Dr. Phil. The other characters can add input in the exchange.

- A. Dr. Phil (host)
- B. Lady Macbeth
- C. Doctor
- D. Gentlewoman
- E. Macbeth (Would he defend his wife?)
- F. King Duncan (What would he say about her role in his murder?)

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Get into character! Explore the motivations of your chosen characters. (What makes him or her tick???) These should go beyond simple yes-or-no responses. The talk show host will ask these questions at some point in the performance:

1. **Dr. Phil:** Well, I appreciate everyone's attention today. It's always very, very difficult to talk about a story like this that's impacted y'all in such a tragic way, and our hearts go out to y'all. Gentlewoman, how did you react when you saw Lady Macbeth do some crazy stuff? You said she tries to clean her hands while sleeping? She nags at her husband?
- 2.

3.

Think about the order in which the host will ask the three questions, and how each character/talk show guest will react to the questions. You can script out your talk show performance here:

Suggested closing:

**Dr. Phil:** (looking sternly at Duncan) I think you are entitled to a search for justice in this matter. The biggest injustice here would be if you didn't close the loop in your relationship with your sons. You've got to give yourself permission to grieve. You've got to give yourself permission to allow yourself to hurt and cry and reminisce and celebrate. You've got to be so proud of your strength, Lady Macbeth. Prayers to you and I wish you the best. Thank you so much. So long. Thanks so much. Appreciate it.

## Macbeth: A Talk Show Experience!

Group #2

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



### Scene: Act 3 scene 3 - Banquo's Assassination:

Nancy Grace covers the details of Banquo's murder through interviews with Fleance and the assassins. What happened? Nancy Grace could ask each character to recall details of that night.

- A. Nancy Grace (host)
- B. Banquo
- C. Fleance
- D. Murderer #1
- E. Murderer #2
- F. Murderer #3

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Get into character! Explore the motivations of your chosen characters. (What makes him or her tick???) These should go beyond simple yes-or-no responses. The talk show host will ask these questions at some point in the performance:

1. **Nancy:** (looks at Murderer #1 with "wide eyes") Murder #1, who hired you to kill Banquo? This is somebody that's got to be connected in some way to King Duncan.
- 2.
- 3.

Think about the order in which the host will ask the three questions, and how each character/talk show guest will react to the questions. You can script out your talk show performance here:

Suggested closing:

**Nancy Grace:** (looking into the audience) Thanks for being with us, everybody. Inviting us into your homes. Nancy Grace signing off. See you tomorrow night, 8:00 sharp Eastern. And until then, good night, friend.

## ***Macbeth: A Talk Show Experience!***

Group #3

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



### **Scene: Act 5 scene 2 - Face the Nation: The March Toward Birnam:**

Bob Schieffer offers insight to the Scottish lords' current military situation. (They will join forces with Malcolm and Macduff to overtake Macbeth, the "tyrant.")

- A. Bob Schieffer (host)
- B. Menteth
- C. Agnus
- D. Caithness
- E. Lennox
- F. Soldier(s)

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Get into character! Explore the motivations of your chosen characters. (What makes him or her tick???) These should go beyond simple yes-or-no responses. The talk show host will ask these questions at some point in the performance:

1. **Bob:** There is a war to find beauty and meaning in life again. There is sometimes a war to learn how to pick up a fork, how to tie a shoe, how to reconnect with a world that sent you to do something you never really thought you were going to



do. And the aftermath of war is something that is profound. Menteith, what impact will overtaking Macbeth have on Scotland?

2.

3.

Think about the order in which the host will ask the three questions, and how each character/talk show guest will react to the questions. You can script out your talk show performance on the back of this hand out:

Suggested closing:

**Bob Schieffer:** (looking into the audience) Well, our time's up for today. I hope you can join me next week for the next broadcast of FACE THE NATION. Hope to see you then.

## ***Macbeth: A Talk Show Experience!***

Group #4

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



### **Scene: Act 3 scene 4 - Wait. A Ghost?**

What happens when Jerry Springer mediates a confrontation between Banquo's ghost and Macbeth?

- A. Jerry Springer (host)
- B. Banquo's ghost
- C. Murderer #1
- D. Macbeth
- E. Lady Macbeth
- F. Lord(s)

#### Distinguishing features of Jerry Springer show:

The show begins with Jerry being greeted by a standing audience pumping the air with their right hand, chanting "Jer-ry!, Jer-ry!". He then shakes hands with those in the front and, afterward, the audience settles down. A confrontation between the guests usually occurs, often breaking down into a brawl. Security... SECURITY?!

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Get into character! Explore the motivations of your chosen characters. (What makes him or her tick???) These should go beyond simple yes-or-no responses. The talk show host will ask these questions at some point in the performance:

1. **Jerry:** Okay, okay. So let me get this all straight. Banquo is dead, but is actually a ghost... Here to haunt you, Mr. Macbeth? Why?
- 2.
- 3.

Think about the order in which the host will ask the three questions, and how each character/talk show guest will react to the questions. You can script out your talk show performance here:

Suggested closing:

**Jerry:** (looking sternly into the camera) It is times like these that one has to wonder, whether or not people are aware that they are quite clinically insane. Perhaps we should be spending more on psychiatric health funds in this country; perhaps I should get a new job. Thanks for watching folks it's been great but for now...until next time!

## ***Macbeth: A Talk Show Experience!***

Group #5

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



### **Scene: Act 3 scene 5 - Lets Sing and Dance?**

What happens when Ellen DeGeneres asks Hecate what is wrong, or why she seems so angry? What does Hecate say is the "major enemy" of mortals? Would Ellen make a joke about this? Will the interview end in a dance party?

- A. Ellen DeGeneres (host)
- B. Witch #1
- C. Witch #2
- D. Witch #3
- E. Hecate

#### Distinguishing features of the Ellen DeGeneres show:

Since the show's debut, DeGeneres has iconized her show opening by doing a dance. The dancing proved to be extremely popular with viewers, and has since progressed to a segment where DeGeneres dances into the audience, sometimes borrowing a coat or purse from someone's chair, and taking it with her. She has also featured a segment in which people teach her new dance moves. Her interviews are often comical in tone.

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Get into character! Explore the motivations of your chosen characters. (What makes him or her tick???) These should go beyond simple yes-or-no responses. The talk show host will ask these questions at some point in the performance:

1. **Ellen:** (raising hand after listening to Hecate and witches bicker) Hold on, hold on, I'm missing the problem here...what exactly IS the problem?

2.

3.

Think about the order in which the host will ask the three questions, and how each character/talk show guest will react to the questions. You can script out your talk show performance here:

Suggested closing:

**Ellen:** (smiles into the camera) Be kind to one another. Bye bye!