

ASSIGNMENT #1: Actos and La Victima
Due Wednesday, October 20th!

El Teatro Campesino's early period was defined by its political ideologies and focus, creating theatrical styles that have inspired generations. Likewise, *La Victima* leans heavily on the history of Mexican Americans, Mexicans, and Chicanos in the Southwest. The play uses real experiences to fictionalize a call to action for the Chicano community, and it does so directly and without apology for its agitprop aesthetics.

Using these plays and the conversations we have had around the early history of El Teatro Campesino and its techniques and performance styles, you will create your own acto!

To do so, you will use the following steps:

Part 1: Identify The Goals of your Acto and write out your Outline

Work with your group to identify the issue/social problem you want to address. Then answer how your acto addresses the following goals:

- Inspire the audience to social action
- Illuminate specific points about social problems
- Satirize the Opposition
- Show or hint at a solution
- Express what people are feeling

Write your Outline

- Who are the characters?
 - Remember the ARCHETYPES and STEREOTYPES from the actos we read. Your Acto needs AT LEAST THREE Characters.
- What is the story?
 - Each story has at least three components
 - The Beginning - What is the status quo? What is the world as it is and what happens to change it?
 - The Middle - What is the DRAMATIC QUESTION you set up? Will Romeo and Juliet be able to live together as man and wife? No. Will Luke Skywalker save Princess Leia and

stop the evil Empire? Yes. The Question and how it goes about being answered is the bulk of your story.

- The End - What is the result of the answer to your Dramatic Question? What happens because your main character(s) succeeds or fails?

You will need to submit BOTH YOUR GOALS and your OUTLINE as a part of your assignment. Submit them as ONE PDF document on this page.

Part II: Write your acto!

Here is the even more fun part! With your group and based on our convos in class, you will write your acto! How will you collaborate? Who writes stuff down? How do you decide on dialogue? These are all things you will need to figure out. Your acto needs to be AT LEAST five pages of script.

You pick the style. You pick the method. But it needs to have these elements:

- **It must be about hidden history from your culture.** Again, you define what the culture is, but it needs to be something important. Something that outsiders don't know. And like *La Victima*, bringing a longstanding issue or challenge to light. That's the key. What's a story that makes visible something about your community(ies)? Get to googlin' if you don't have an idea!
- **Your work needs an archetypal figure.** Who is your PELADO, and how does this character symbolize someone who is a part of the story you are telling?
- **It must be about something important that is a problem NOW.** The Chicano Theatre has never been silent about what's happening in the world around it, and neither should you for this assignment. What matters to you? What's eating you up inside? Climate change? Immigration? #DefundNYPD? Those pesky student loans (I still have them!!!)? Pick a subject and tackle it.
- **You must be able to perform/present it in Class!** Participation and conversation will be a part of your grade. So whatever you create, you need to be able to share it. SHOW ME WHAT YOU GOOOOOOOOT!

Part III: Share your acto!

We will present our actos in class. How you do this is up to you. The basic elements, how much or how little you do, will be up to your team to decide. You need to think through this element of the process, and your

2021 Fall Term (1) Theater of the Twentieth Century

THEA. 2501 R2[49195] (Brooklyn College)

presentation needs to feel COMPLETE. By this, we mean that we, the audience need to feel like we got a full sense of what you were attempting.

During class, we will be responding to you these assignments. As a part of your individual grade, you will be expected to respond and participate using Liz Lerman's Critical Response Process. We will review this in class but know that participation will be a part of your grade!