

**ADVANCED DRAMA MT 9 AESTHETIC VALUING**  
**THESIS PAPER:**  
**WHY PEOPLE CREATE THEATRE**

**INTRODUCTION:** Support for drama classes—and the fine arts in general—is quite low in this country; it is thus important to remember why we should support theatre and drama in the first place. The following assignment is meant to help you explore the many reasons that people continue to create theatre.

**PROMPT:** What do you believe are the most important reasons that people create theatre?

**DIRECTIONS:**

**1. CONSIDER YOUR OWN OPINIONS**

- a. First, read the article, “Seven Reasons Why Theatre Makes our Lives Better” by Howard Shalwitz (director of Woolly Mammoth Theatre Co.)
  - i. Underline/take notes as you read. Consider your own opinions. Write down your ideas on notepaper.

**2. RESEARCH**

- a. Choose one well-established (renowned and/or honored) person from each of the following positions, either in theatre (preferred) or cinema:
  - i. A director or producer
  - ii. An actor or actress
  - iii. A playwright or screen writer (author)
- b. Research articles online or in the library that help you uncover why these thespians do what they do.
  - i. For a writer/director: you may try the forwards or director’s notes in their books, or look for “director’s cuts” on videos/dvds/YouTube.
  - ii. Anything goes, just make sure you write down **WHERE** you get your information.
  - iii. Take notes as you go. Be sure to put quotation marks (“ ”) around anything that you write down word for word from a source.

**3. WRITE**

- a. Draft the essay using the following graphic organizer for help.

**4. CITE SOURCES**

- a. At the end of the paper, make a list of all the sources you used, with
  - i. who wrote the piece (if available)
  - ii. what the source was called
  - iii. when it was published (optional)
  - iv. what type of media it was (e.g., dvd, book, website...)
  - v. if you want to do this in traditional MLA format, you may
- b. EX: Wilde, Oscar. “Introduction: Importance of Being Earnest.” 1895. Book.

**TIPS FOR WRITING**

- You can use the word “I” – this paper may be less formal than other English papers
- Show insight – really think about your own experiences in drama, and how they might provide insight as to theatre’s importance
- Have a thesis: still have a thesis that tells us what three sources you are using for your investigation
- Proofread: you can use this essay for English credit!

## GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

1. INTRODUCTION: *Include a sentence that “draws” the reader in, and end with a thesis statement that includes the three people you explored to help you come to your conclusions.*

2. PRODUCER/DIRECTOR: *Discuss, in your own words (and with a few quotes) what the director/producer you chose believes about this topic. (8-10 sentences)*

3. ACTOR/ACTRESS: *Discuss, in your own words (and with a few quotes) what the actor/actress you chose believes about this topic. (8-10 sentences)*

4. PLAYWRIGHT/SCREEN WRITER: *Discuss, in your own words (and with a few quotes) what the playwright/screenwriter you chose believes about this topic. (8-10 sentences)*

5. CONCLUSION/YOUR BELIEFS: *Based on all of these opinions—and adding your own—what do YOU think are the main reasons that people do (and SHOULD CONTINUE) to create theatre. Make this persuasive. (8-10 sentences or as long as you need it to be)*