

Scripting Your Monologue

Begin writing your script. Remember to keep it short and sweet—a monologue should be no longer than one or two pages long and should take about three minutes to deliver (give or take), including all pauses.

Once you've created a detailed character profile, you should find your path from there simple and easy.

Decide whether you want the monologue to be comedic or dramatic, and think about the arc of the monologue. The character should make some discovery or go on some internal journey.

How to Structure a Monologue

You should begin paying attention to the past, present, and future parts of your character profile. This should show your character's life already planned out. Here are some ideas and suggestions to explore when crafting your monologue:

1. Start by taking a part of your character's past and creating a flashback scene from it.
2. Transitions are very important. Be creative: Pause for a second and let something happen or do something such as putting a hood on or off.
3. Next, you should be able to know what your monologue is about. Once you do, you should open up Microsoft Word or any other writing program and start drafting your monologue script.

Again, you should keep in mind or have a copy of your character profile near you at all times.

- Start by introducing your character, in character, to the audience. You could use an aside: An aside is when your character speaks their mind to the audience.
- Next, briefly allow the audience to know what situation you are in or what message you are trying to get across in your performance. Take the audience with you on your own journey depending on what you have created so far.
- Further down in your script, you should have already played out all the key facts you needed to get your chosen message across or what you wanted the audience to see, whether it be a mental journey or a physical one.
- Lastly, you should end your monologue script smoothly, not just by pausing and finishing with the audience having unanswered questions.

Editing is the most important part of writing a monologue—make sure to edit your script a few times after you have finished it. You need to make sure that every single sentence and word is necessary and serves a purpose.

Draft it and keep on going until you are happy with it. Only once you're happy with what you have and it checks all those "to remember" points in the list at the top should you consider it a final draft.

Frequently Asked Questions

About Writing a Monologue

How can I memorize a monologue?

Break the text up into sections so that you can memorize the text in bite-sized chunks. This will also help you to revise and edit as needed. Hand-writing has been proven to bolster your ability to retain information, so give that a try as well!

How can I write a monologue for my character?

Make sure to do research on the type of character for whom you're writing the monologue. If you don't know how to write from the perspective of a character who's older, younger, gay, straight, male, female, or different from you in some other way, beginning the monologue-writing process with extensive research is key. You need to get inside your character's head to feel what they feel and think what they think—reading books, watching movies, or talking to people who understand the type of character you're going for is a great place to start.

How long should a monologue be?

A monologue needs to be short and sweet. Remember, you need to capture and maintain your audience's attention. Keep it to two minutes (three minutes maximum), including all pauses.

How do I make a monologue interesting?

Keep it short, and make sure your character has an arc or storyline that is examined within the text of the monologue. Focus on the editing phase of writing the monologue—remember that every word needs to drive the plot forward.

Adapted from

<https://hobbylark.com/performing-arts/How-To-Create-A-Monologue-Easy-And-Simple>