

Developing Strong Interp Introductions

1. Create the intro after you have a final cut of the selection - Length (no more than 1 min)
2. Choose when the Intro will occur.
 - a. The performance “launches” with the introduction
 - b. Cut-Away, Hook or Teaser -- A short portion of the selection is performed before breaking for the introduction
3. Be yourself – Connect with the audience. Show them who YOU are -- poised, eloquent and engaging.
- 4. DON'T IMPROV THE INTRODUCTION**
5. Match the tone to the selection but **DO NOT** tell the audience how to feel (sad, happy, angry) or describe the piece (funny, touching, maudlin, macabre)
6. Introductions may/should include.
 - a. Social significance, relevance and/or importance of the character(s) and/or situations (especially for Dramatic Selections)
 - b. Quotations and/or Statistics
 - c. A personal story
 - d. Background Information (DO NOT summarize the entire selection)
 - e. Avoid Gimmicks (especially for Humorous Selections)
 - f. Title and Author (may be creatively incorporated into the last sentence)
7. Duo Intros should be shared equally between the performers. It's okay to interact.
8. Poetry selections are often compilations of multiple poems. They **may** contain “transition” material between poems.

SAMPLE INTRODUCTIONS

Sample DI Intro: (Cut-away, Hook or Teaser)

Miss Reardon Drinks a Little by Paul Zindel (Video Sample)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMgeab-TLwU>

Sample HI Intro: (Presented as the “launch”)

I have a secret . . . (*whispering*) I still like to color! And even though my mom doesn't put my pictures on the refrigerator anymore . . . I still color. Sometimes in coloring books (which I get in my stocking for Christmas each year) and sometimes pictures I draw myself. I love crayons!!!! And you know what . . . I'm proud of it. Heck, they are even making ADULT coloring books now! I saw them at the craft store, so I know I'm not the only one. But then I got to thinking . . . what if Crayons could talk? What would they say? How do they feel? The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt.

Sample DUO Intro: (Cut-away, Hook or Teaser)

ACTRESS 1: Ruth Jefferson is a labor and delivery nurse with more than 20 years' experience.

ACTRESS 2: During a shift, she begins a routine checkup on a newborn, only to be told a few minutes later that she's been reassigned. Why?

ACTRESS 1 in the voice of the father, TURK BAUER: "I don't want her or anyone who looks like her touching my son!"

ACTRESS 2: The hospital complies and flags the baby's chart

TOGETHER: NO AFRICAN AMERICAN PERSONNEL TO CARE FOR THIS PATIENT

ACTRESS 1: But the next day, the baby goes into cardiac distress while Ruth is alone in the nursery. She hesitates before performing CPR and, as a result, is charged with murder.

ACTRESS 2: Kennedy McQuarrie, a white public defender, takes her case, and insists that mentioning race in the courtroom is **NOT** a winning strategy.

ACTRESS 1: Yes, talking about racism is hard to do,

ACTRESS 2: And yes, we stumble over the words - but we **need** to have this discussion . . .

ACTRESS 1: Because then, more will overhear, and - I hope - the conversations will spread.

TOGETHER: Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult

Sample PR Intro: (Presented as the “launch”)

Our society is more generationally stratified than ever before, making the elderly feel particularly alienated. According to one study from the University of California San Francisco, 43% of seniors report feeling lonely, which comes with a staggering 59% higher risk of declining health and a 45% higher risk of death. In short, the epidemic of loneliness among the elderly isn't just an emotional travesty, it's a health hazard. But love can always defeat loneliness. It can give those who are struggling a reason to live when the feeling of defeat is overpowering. Never underestimate the healing power of love. To Hell with Dying by Alice Walker

4NG Fanatics

Sample PO Intro: (Presented as the “launch”)

Martin Luther King, Junior once said, “Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.” (*beat*) The Baptist church on 16th Street in Birmingham, Alabama was known as “everybody’s church” -- a center for educational and intellectual activities. On September 15, 1963, members of the Ku Klux Klan planted a bomb at the church. It exploded just after Sunday services, killing four young girls and generating international outrage that provided the impetus for passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Today I choose to raise my voice . . . Silence is Not an Option including 16th Street Baptist Church Speaks by Christopher Michael and The Hour Dylann Roof Sat in the Church by Denice Frohman.

(TRANSITION USED BETWEEN POEMS)

50 years later, America has evolved, hate crimes are a thing of the past, and we value our countries diversity. Right? . . . Not everyone . . . On the evening of June 17, 2015, a mass shooter took the lives of nine African American people at a Bible study at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. The massacre at a historic Black church deeply shook a nation already jaded by frequent gun violence and heralded the return of violent white nationalism in America.

FOR EDUCATIONAL