Performance Techniques for

Prose Interpretation

1. Focal points

* each character in the scene focuses offstage
* really BELIEVE in your focal points, interact with them
* in Prose, keep them as close together as possible
* focus down a bit, just over the heads of your audience in the back

1. Visualization

* when in a dialogue, create other events/props/characters
* keep it as real as possible, react to what you are seeing
* place the visual image in a believable position

1. Eye focus

* during prose, your eyes should focus on one of four areas:
  + 1. Book use: covered above
    2. Focal points: covered above
    3. Visualization: covered above
    4. Audience: Change eye focus with each new commitment or phrase

1. Character pops

* this is the transition between the characters
* it relies on every aspect of your physical character
* pop into your commitment

1. Gesture

* there are four basic movements for your character
* your character pop may start at any of these stages
  + 1. neutral, hands at your side [maintain energy in your arms]
    2. gesture, must be meaningful and add to your commitment
    3. freeze position, control each gesture
    4. “the move,” either to neutral or a new gesture [controlled]

1. Phrasing

* slight pauses which allow you to breath. This will prevent you from “dropping” the ends of the phrase.

1. Pausing

* longer pauses, usually for a change in commitment

1. Commitments

* in delivery, the change of commitment must be clear and specific. It must involve your face, eyes, body, gestures, and voice.