

60 Seconds to Save the Sea



Objective

Given conservation issues, students will be able to participate in the development of a dramatization whose goal is to spread a message. They will be able to work cooperatively to produce an original audio or audiovisual media spot. They will research an issue, develop a script, experiment with sound quality, lighting, stage elements, costumes, and space; and collaborate in the development of dialogue, timing, sequencing, and movement.

Materials

- audio or audiovisual recording and editing equipment
- props and costumes as appropriate

Background

As we have seen, there is often no easy right or wrong answer to conservation issues. Instead we face difficult choices. As educators, our goal is not to tell people what to do, but to present them with facts. When students become aware of how their actions affect animal populations and ecosystems, then they can decide for themselves what action to take. (Note: radio and TV commercials are generally 15, 30, 60, 90, or 120 seconds long. For this activity, choose a message length before you begin.)

Action

1. Students write scripts for a public service media message. Encourage students to be as creative as possible. Include all stages of the writing process: prewriting, writing, responding, revising, and editing.
2. Vote on which scripts you want to record as a class. Choose students who will provide the voices, students who will find and record music, students to operate audio and/or video equipment, students to provide lighting, costumes, props, etc.
3. Get permission to play the radio spots over your school's loudspeaker system. If possible, show the video spots before classroom videos as public service announcements.