

Worksheet 1:

Clocking or Breaking the Fourth Wall



Clocking is when an actor looks straight at the audience giving them a chance to understand what the character is thinking. In unmasked performance this is called *Breaking the Fourth Wall*.

Watch the video [Mask Techniques #1: Clocking](#) and then try the following tasks:

For each time the character in the video 'clocks' the audience, describe the moment and explain what you think he is communicating to the audience. Complete this in a table format as shown in the example below:

Describe and Explain

Description of 'Clocking Moment'	Communication to Audience
The first time the character 'clocks' the audience after he has begun writing on the paper—just before he scribbles words out.	That he is confused about what he is writing and that he needs to start again. He is uncertain about what he wants to say in his writing. Maybe a little frustrated with himself.

The Three BIG ONES – describe, evaluate, analyse

Think back to a performance that you have made in class, if you have been in a school production, or in a production with a drama company, or a group outside of school. Then do the following:

Write a brief description of the performance you were in. (Describe)

Give one example of what you think was good about the performance and one example of what you think could have been improved. (Evaluate)

Choose two moments from your performance when you think you might have been able to use the technique of 'clocking' or 'breaking the fourth wall', and for each one say what this would have communicated to the audience. (Analyse)

Monologue and Clocking (unmasked drama)

Monologue is a speech presented by a single character—the technique of *clocking* is invaluable as it gives the single character someone to communicate to directly—the audience!

Write a monologue where someone is trying to write a diary entry about an event in their life which they find difficult to write (or talk) about. Then put a number (1, 2, 3 etc) at any point in the

monologue where you think the performer could 'clock' the audience by breaking the fourth wall. See example below:

"I dream a lot. They are often about becoming a millionaire. (1) They are sometimes about being Mr World with enormous muscles and lots of money (2) But then I....."

Now list the points at which you said they could 'clock' the audience and explain what each 'clocking' would communicate. See example below:

I would look directly at the audience, sigh loudly, tilt my head to one side and give a facial expression which looked content and happy. It would communicate to the audience that I was dreaming of what it would be like to be a millionaire.