Welcome to Theater Sketch Parody

Watch a welcome video from Sherie Rene Scott, an Award Winning Writer, Actress, and Singer.

Objective: Explore can families bond by creating a parody sketch (ie. quick scene, music video, etc) that covers a serious topic or story with humor.

What is Parody?

A parody is a written or musical piece where the style of an author or work is closely imitated for comic effect.

What are the steps to making a parody?

1. Choose your topic
2. Map out your story
3. Think outside the box
4. Write and record your work

Let’s Make a Parody!

Step #1: Choosing Your Topic Wisely

Congratulations you and your family are all in for a fun activity! First step, let’s begin by choosing a topic.

When deciding to do a parody, you should choose a topic about which you all know a decent amount, or even a lot. Your topic of choice should reflect something you care about, enjoy or even take seriously.

This topics might related to a :

- Family/Sibling interactions
- Current Events/News
● TV Shows, Music, Movies, other Media
● Hobbies

Step #2: Map Out Your Topic

Now that you have your topic, map it out. On a piece of paper do the following:
1. Identify the main importance of the issue you are covering.
2. Choose 3 - 4 core elements of that issue that you feel are essential points for it.

Step #3: Think Outside the Box

Now that you have your topic and have mapped it out, it’s time to think outside of the box! What does that mean? It means that now you can have some fun with your topic.

Brainstorm unique ways to convey your parody.

This might mean:
- Listening to your favorite song, album, or musical and create lyrics that match the rhythm, tempo, and pitch of the song.
- Think about your favorite comedic tv show, movie, or play and write a script about how those characters might react to your issue.
- Juxtapose your topic. Juxtapose is when you bring two contrasting things together (Think Olaf and summer time).
- Brainstorm jokes about your issue and record what you have and begin an original piece! Have fun and allow it get silly.

Step #4: Write it down and practice

How to play “The Imfomercial“:

Now that you have chosen the kind of parody you are going to do, improvise it or write it out first! Just write it down eventually so you can rehearse it. You can write alone but best to do together as a family.

More ideas! Think of ways you can perform your work. Practice it a few times. Maybe you have a little impromptu performance in your home or you make props and costumes from things you have at home, record it, and share it with other family members virtually.

Example of a Parody
Homework Excuses Parody

Watch the Gem Sisters parody on Homework Excuses.

Making a Parody: Steps Shown in Homework Excuses
1. **Choosing a Topic** – Homework
2. **Map Out Your Topic** – Reasons why you shouldn’t make homework excuses. Core Elements: Left it at school, fake being sick, you don’t understand it, and homework excuses in school.
3. **Thinking Outside the Box** - Brainstorm jokes about your issue and record what you have and begin an original piece! Have fun allow it get silly.
4. **Write It Down and Practice** - Created a video with props and costumes.

The only thing you need to make a parody is your imagination!

If you enjoyed what you learned today, here are some resources and ideas for you.

**Additional Resources:**
1. **Parody: What is this Quarantine?** Based on *What is This Feeling?* From WICKED
2. **Parody: Star S’Mores** from SESAME STREET based on the Star Wars Theme
3. **Free Playwriting Activities** from *TheatreFolk* – The Drama Teacher Resource Company
4. **The Tarrytown Music Hall Academy Free Online Workshops**