# HOW TO ATTACK A MONOLOGUE

1 Context

The context of a monologue is the **background information** that helps you understand the scene.

It includes: what happens before and after the character speaks, where the scene takes place, the character's emotions, and what they want to achieve.

Understanding the context helps you make decisions on how to act and deliver your lines, making your performance more believable.

When starting a monologue, review the dialogue and stage directions. Use our **backstory prompts guide** to build the context of your piece.
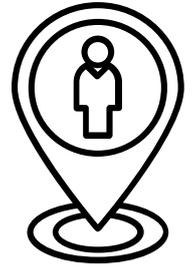
2 Mapping out changes in thoughts and emotions:

Read through the monologue and think about how your character's thoughts and feeling change.
- Do they start hopeful but then get frustrated?
- Do they go from being calm to upset?
- Do they quickly shift between thinking about different topics?
- Do changes in their thoughts cause a change of emotion?
- Or do their emotions lead to new thoughts?

Breaking this down helps you understand the emotional journey you're showing the audience and helps create a stronger connection with them.

TIP: As you read through the scene, break down the text into smaller sections. Note down each time there's a change in emotion or thought! (Either mentally, with a pen or editing on your device)

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3 Physicality

Think about how your character's body will show their feelings. Every physical choice can help make your performance feel more real to the audience.

If they're **excited**: Do they stand tall with open, expressive gestures?

If they're **nervous**: Do they hunch their shoulders, make small gestures, or pace around?

If they're **happy**: Do they use energetic, wide movements, like bouncing on their feet, or smiling brightly?

If they're **sad**: Do they sad their shoulders, avoid eye contact, or make slower, heavier movements?

4 Staging

Think about the **location** your character is in and how it affects their interaction with the space.

Is the space tight or open?

Is it busy or are they alone?

TIP: While practicing use 'blocking' to help you figure out your staging. To block a monologue you walk through the script in section and plan each of your movements and positions as if it's choreography.

The Share Foundation