Characterization

Lesson Type: Drama Camp Lesson, Characterization
Target Group: Middle School
Approx. Length: 4 hours
Materials: Greek Trag./Com. Masks, hat, mood traits. Pen and paper

National Objectives: NTG #2 The student will act by interacting in improvisation and assuming roles.

Specific Goals:
The student will explore character creation through personality types, moods, and basic character traits (age, occupation, etc.).
The student will create a character of their own and build background and depth to the character.
The student will improv their character interacting with other students’ characters in a scene based on given circumstances.

Procedures:
Discussion of introduction to Greek Drama Masks and their purpose. (Displaying character traits such as mean, nice, sad, happy, etc.) Then discussion of how these traits can be shown without masks. Each student will choose a character trait from a hat of traits and portray that trait individually. 30 min.
Discussion of what other character traits might be besides moods and how those can be portrayed. Each student will choose two mood traits from the hat and choose a personality trait such as age, occupation, etc, portraying each mood separately while retaining their other character trait. 60 min.
Discussion on the filling out of a character, bring them from the one dimensional mood or trait into a person with background history and likes, dislikes, etc. The students will use pen and paper to being “fleshing out” a character, adding as much detail as they can. Once characters have been finished, they will begin improving scenes using the characters in settings/situations provided by the lead teacher. 90 min.- 2 hours.