

# Formatting Dialogue

## SCENE 1

*As lights rise, Jane stands in front of a class of high school students. Theatre vocabulary is seen written sloppily on the chalkboard directly behind her.*

Jane

*(tapping the chalkboard with her index finger)*  
So, remind me. Why is “want” so important when we’re writing a script?

Kaneshia

Because *(imitating Jane’s voice)* all characters in all plays want something. That’s why they’re there.

*The class laughs at Kaneshia’s imitation.*

Darius

“Want” also moves the plot forward.

Jane

You’re both right. *(pointing to another student)* How does want help move the plot forward?

Jocelyn

*(smirking with embarrassment)* I don’t remember.

Jane

Help her out, Kaneshia.

Kaneshia

If our main character wants something, and the other characters either help or hinder her in getting what she wants, we end up with great conflict and action.

Teacher’s Play -1

Stage directions not directly influencing a single character’s line should be centered and italicized in their own paragraph.

The character’s name should be centered over their line. Lines should also be centered on the page. Lines spoken by one character should be single spaced.

There should be a double space between the end of one character’s line, and the character name that signals the next line.

Emotional, vocal or physical directions related to a single character should be placed in the character’s line, italicized, and surrounded by parentheses. These may be used sparingly! After all, it’s part of the actor’s job to interpret your lines.

Your footer or header should include the title of your play (**NO** author) and page numbers.

