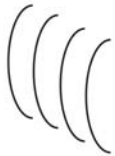


Structuring material

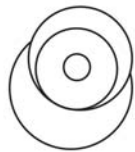
Handout CTP8

When collaboratively creating your original piece of theatre, you may wish to consider one of the following models for structuring your material.



The domino

One scene leads to another in chronological or random order until the last scene completes the story.

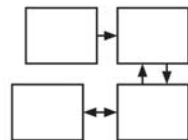


The spiral OR the onion

The story spirals out from one key situation, action, event, idea or theme.

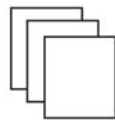
OR

One idea is explored in more and more depth until the essence that lies at the heart of it is revealed.



The chain

One scene leads to another, leads to another (cause and effect). This model does not necessarily have to be chronological.



The collection

A series of scenes is connected by a common theme or idea. This model can be more eclectic and diverse.



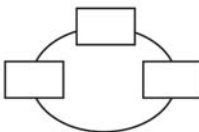
The washing line

One through-line narrative with stories, scenes or moments of action intercepting, such as examples, evidence, flashback, flash forward, dream sequences and so on.



The frame

A holding form unifies a collection of ideas and/or stories. Frames can be a particular style, a recurring prop or costume, a particular way each scene is introduced, a building, a space or a motif.



The cycle

This model is often used with narrative. The story starts and ends at the same place but takes the audience on a journey. The starting and ending point may be a piece of the story, a significant scene or key action.

Traditional

This model has a beginning, a middle and an end. This model includes:



- an introduction to the world of the play
- the introduction of a conflict, obstacle or challenge
- action showing the attempt to resolve this conflict, obstacle or challenge
- a climactic point
- the outcome
- a conclusion.



Aesthetic

This model is structured based on the theatre piece's "look" rather than its meaning, idea or story. It involves arranging scenes according to principles such as contrast, similarity, balance, scale, volume, colour, shape and style.