

## 10 reasons on why to do a play (in no particular order):

1. It is something different – especially for students who have spent a long time in the literacy classroom.
2. It's fun – for students and the teachers – we all get to play and sing.
3. Lot's of different literacy activities can be built around the topics or themes
4. It can be repetitive but not monotonous. Also allows for repeated exposure to play-specific vocabulary.
5. The process can be an empowering for students who are already marginalised to have a voice.
6. It is an holistic way to approach learning
7. It is relevant to the student's lives
8. Everyone can be involved – the plays allow for all abilities.
9. It can attract funding
10. The celebrations – morning teas and pats on the back.

## Writing a play for an adult literacy classroom.

### Essential ingredients for a classroom play –

- **student proposed themes**
- **student input all the way**
- **a conflict / problem.**
- **diverse characters**
- **title roles – managers / bosses...**
- **bells and whistles**
- **camera**
- **excursion based research**
- **discussion time**
- **time for the ideas to brew**
- **flexibility for changes**

You have 8 characters

Come up with a problem that is part of your students' lives.

Work out a way that it will be introduced

Find a solution

**For example: One of my students often comes to class and reports his phone has been stolen. The next week he returns to class with a new phone and his old one that he found in the bottom of his bag. A play idea for that could be something like:**

Greta lives in a share house. She made a phone call before she went to bed and when she woke up in the morning her phone was missing. She told the staff it was stolen. Her friend Roberto helps her to investigate.

They suspect a number of housemates and put everyone's noses out of joint until someone eventually sits on a lumpy cushion on the couch and discovers the missing phone.

Greta (and Roberto) has to make up with everyone and take better care of her phone.

**There have also been bigger picture issues come up in the class, like violence from other participants in other settings, confusion around all the bins we are meant to use and what is allowed to go in which bin, loneliness and other feelings/emotions, animal companionship, and so on.**

**Some ideas:**

Getting lost

Getting help when you are sick or hurt.

Losing your money/mobile phone

Recycling

When someone close to you dies

Playing sports

Dealing with others' violence.

Play idea	Characters
Scene 1 – introduce characters	2 – introduce conflict
3 transition	4 begin to resolve
5	6