*The Merchant of Venice*: Talk Show

**Task: Prepare and present a talk show.** Your group creates an interview scenario with various characters from “The Merchant of Venice”. Prepare the questions carefully in advance, and avoid “yes or no” questions.

**Your group is responsible for choosing characters, rehearsing and performing a talk show segment, complete with costumes, props and blocking.**

*Follow these steps:*

1. Choose characters that might have something to say to each other. Consider what each character’s motivation is and what their feelings might be. You MUST include discussions about the specific elements of the plot.

1. Compose questions – Make sure they are not ‘yes or no’ questions. Make a list of any needed props and costumes.



1. Prepare Written Component **Part 1**:
   1. “Performance Information” :

* The script of the show (EACH performer must submit a copy)
* the roles and corresponding actors

1. Prepare Written Component **Part 2**:

a. “Context”:

* + give a **short** description of your character
  + Explain why they are important to the text

b. “Self-Evaluation”: Explain how you personally contributed to the task, what you did well, and what you could improve upon. Evaluate your group’s performance as a whole.

1. Refine your work through planning, blocking and **rehearsing**. If you decide to film your talk show, it is VERY IMPORTANT to ensure that you will be able to play it in class. Consult with Miss Lazzarin about the technology available.
2. Let go! Have fun! Remember, this is supposed to be entertaining. If you are bored by your performance, your audience will be too!

**When you present:**

1. Be well prepared – there should not be any last minute planning.
2. Make eye contact with your audience and be enthusiastic – if you are bored, so is your audience
3. DO NOT read from notes. Use gestures, intonation, and posture to create your character.
4. Make sure you have a clear opening and closing – do not end with “and that’s it” or “I’m finished.
5. **BE CREATIVE!!!!** You are encouraged to use costumes, props, etc. that will make your presentation engaging.

**Checklist:**

* Are your characters well-developed?
* Have you covered the important features of the play?
* Does each group member have a clear set of tasks to accomplish?
* Have you completed all written components?
* Does each member of the group know their part?
* Have you rehearsed at least twice as a group?