

# Tableau

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- **ALSO KNOWN AS** See Also: Drama; Pageant; Play (Dramatic)
- **CATEGORIES** Large Group; Small Group
- **CLASSIFICATIONS** Art Form; A-V Instruction; Dramatic Form; Non-Classroom Activity
- **DIVISIONS** Minor
- **DEFINITION**

The **TABLEAU** is a still or motionless dramatic set, usually three-dimensional in scope, depicting a specific scene. The objects of the scene may be live as with the *tableau vivant* or inanimate objects representative of any desirable concept.

Also as a form of drama, the *tableau vivant* is a "living picture" created by appropriately dressed live actors holding a continual specific pose. Often used to depict Biblical and historical settings and art forms, the **TABLEAU** is usable in presenting a visual image to reinforce a story or narration. Before the actors change position in preparation for a new scene (if desired), a curtain or other appropriate covering is normally used. Sometimes a large frame is provided to give added visual effect to the setting. The **TABLEAU** is almost always used in conjunction with other instructional techniques.

## ■ INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

1. After a program is determined, specific scenes are chosen for **TABLEAU** viewing.
2. The time period or situation to be depicted is sufficiently researched to assure appropriate characterization and scenes.
3. Characters are chosen (if a *tableau vivant*) according to specific criteria.
4. Items are selected, collected, arranged, and placed in appropriate housing.
5. The appropriate time, place, and manner of viewing are determined.

## ■ BEST AGES FOR USE

**TABLEAUS** are probably more useful with younger children although they may be used with audiences of any age.

## 232 EDUCATIONAL SPICE

### ■ TIME REQUIREMENTS

Time requirements apply only to the "**tableau vivant**", in which each pose is normally held in place for a relatively brief time (approximately one to two minutes).

### ■ PERSONNEL REQUIRED

There are no personnel required for the normal **TABLEAU**, excepting the individual or group which arranges or composes it. The "**tableau vivant**" requires a minimum of one participant with the maximum number being determined by the nature of the display.

### ■ NECESSARY MATERIALS, EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES

This category is entirely determined by the nature of the display and the educational goals envisioned.

### ■ ADVANTAGES

1. With the **tableau vivant**, the involved student(s) is provided opportunity for expression with little or no real need for acting ability or memorization of script.
2. The opportunity for students to visually conceptualize a previously encountered scene or passage is provided.
3. **TABLEAUS** normally are quite inexpensive and relatively simple to construct, and usually consist of readily available objects and materials.

### ■ DISADVANTAGES & LIMITATIONS

1. The **TABLEAU** may be utilized only for things which may be visually displayed.
2. The **TABLEAU** is generally not considered an active participation technique.
3. This technique is not a major methodology and consequently it must usually be used in conjunction with other techniques.
4. By nature the **TABLEAU** has at best only a very limited usage, both as to function and frequency.

### ■ DIAGRAM

