

## Basic Playwriting Exercise: Character Conflict

Create a scene with two characters and one setting. The characters must each want something but they are unable to attain their goal because of the other character. It can be something material (a new car, an ice cream, a trip to Disney) or they may want something not of a material nature (freedom, love, friendship).

### Guidelines and Rules:

- Two characters
- One setting
- One scene continuous, no breaks or jumps in time
- Each character must want something from the other but they cannot get it at the start of the scene
- The two characters must come into conflict and in some way oppose one another
- No weapons (No guns, knives, bombs, etc. None)
- Focus on character and what they want and why they want what they want
- Use stage directions when needed
- Utilize dialogue to its fullest
- The scene should have a beginning, middle and end
- The character(s) may or may not achieve their goals (that's up to you)
- Estimated length of scene 3 to 6 pages

### **Exercise Contributed by Paul Mroczka**

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