TRINITY COLLEGE LONDON

Drama games: Texts

Status bridge

20 minutes 4+ people

This exercise encourages students to focus on the subtleties of acting that can be used to portray something intangible such as status.

- Ask students to sit in chairs facing each other with a gap between them to suggest a footbridge.
- Explain that the footbridge is very narrow and is only wide enough for one person to cross.
- Introduce a pack of cards and explain that an Ace is a low-status card, and a King has the highest status.
- Explain that you will ask two participants to start at either end of the footbridge and that you will share a card with them. Keep the card hidden from the rest of the group. You can choose two vastly different cards or, as the exercise progresses, it may be interesting to introduce similar statuses.
- Ask the students to physically embody the status matching the card they have been shown. For example, if a participant has been given an Ace, they will be the lowest-status character so they will mostly avoid eye contact, will be stooped or crouched and they may hide their face.
- Next ask the students to begin walking to one another. Inevitably, one person will continue, and one will be sent over the edge of the bridge. Repeat with other pairs. The rest of the group can guess their status and discuss.