

CLASSROOM DISCUSSION: *THE MAYHEM POETS* (15 min. total)

Show & Theater Company: (less than 1 min.)

The Mayhem Poets

Art Form: (1-2 min.)

- A three-man group of spoken-word performers
- These theatrically-trained, comedic, lyrical virtuosos blend raw elements of hip-hop, theater, improv and stand-up comedy to reshape students' views of poetry to reveal truths on contemporary issues.

Context: (3-5 min.)

- The Mayhem Poets are among the nations' top spoken-word performers who met in college as students at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey in 2000 and started an open-mic on campus called Verbal Mayhem.
 - ? What's the difference between spoken-word poetry and poetry?
 - Spoken Word poetry is a memorized piece that formulates a concentrated imaginative awareness of experiences and arranged to create a specific emotional response which is intended to be performed live.
 - Poetry is a written piece that formulates a concentrated imaginative awareness of experiences and arranged to create a specific emotional response through meaning, sound, and rhythm.

Main concepts: (3 min.)

- Three spoken-word performers: Kyle Rapps, Scott Raven & Mason Granger
- They have a mission to change what society thinks about poetry with a unique, rhythmic style of spoken-word poetry.
- This show will excite our young people about the power of language and give them the confidence to express their own personal voice.

Special things to look for: (3 min.)

- Body stance and language
 - ? Does it change the meaning of a message being sent in regards to a person's thoughts or feelings?

Theater Etiquette: (2-3 min.)

- Respect the theater, limit bathroom breaks, one person to a seat, do not kick the seats, no food or drink in the theater (bottled water okay), no audio, video recording or photography and remember to turn off cell phones and please no texting.
 - ? How is watching live theater different than watching a movie or TV?
 - Can't pause, rewind, or fast forward with live theater
 - Live theater is exciting, because each performance is unique
 - Students are in the same room as the performers. Every sound they make and moving around can affect the performers and other members of the audience.

Show info: *The Mayhem Poets* • Monday, March 6, 2017 • 9:30am • Grades 6-12

