MONOLOGUE TIPS S.T.A.G.E. Theatre/Lee Hotovy

1. What is a monologue?
   1. Comes from the Greek word “monos” which means *alone;* and the Greek word “logos”which means *speech.*
2. A monologue is a long-term speech given by a single character in a play or film (or used for auditioning)

Types of Monologues:

1. Soliloquy—when a character speaks their thoughts out loud regardless of listeners.
2. Dramatic—a poem or speech which reveals the speakers character and struggle
3. Internal—a conversation with one’s self played out
4. Comic—a monologue that uses any of the above techniques but incorporates humor, sarcasm, role play and lands with a comedic punch/humor for resolve.
5. Operatic---just what it says/ a monologue sung in an opera style (speak singing)

Three Qualities of a Monologue:

1. Monologue takes an emotional arc with character.
   1. Example: character is depressed, moves through thoughts to something hopeful by working through past experiences or thoughts until resolve. Moves up and over. Arc.
2. Range in a monologue exhibits the actors ability to show a range of emotions, facial expressions, body language, timing, and movement.
3. Choosing the right monologue for the character you are auditioning for
   1. Example: If you are playing a child, don’t audition with Gettysburg Address

TIPS:

1. Before presenting make sure you are fully memorized. Within that process, pick your monologue apart and find areas you can emphasize with voice change or pauses. Highlight these areas. Find mental tricks to help you remember the next line by linking vowels or consonants/or word meanings to trigger your memory. Have your opening grab the audience, and be sure to end the monologue well, with a punch or a whisper. Whatever fits and leaves the panel impressed.
2. Fake confidence as you enter the room or stage. Walk confidently; be dressed in a way that shows professionalism and nothing “wacky”.
3. Introduce yourself to the panel: “Hello or Good Afternoon, I am \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and I will be presenting: *Name of Monologue*”.
4. If you have a conflict form along with your name etc. Hand that to director or assistants upon entry.
5. Don’t fidget/use your hands to help you perform. Do not stare the panel down. Look around as you tell your story---pick a sight away from panel’s eyes, but do not seem too disconnected to them. If you feel your nerves getting to you…throw that into your volume and raise your voice. Own the energy of nerves instead of caving to it.
6. Do not go overtime. Keep a good pace. Panels have several people to see, and most directors can figure out an actor’s abilities in the first minute. Keep monologues to 2-3 minutes max.
7. Try to find monologues that are unique or match your best qualities.
8. Research your monologue if you do not know how to pronounce something. Make sure you understand what you are speaking about.
9. Don’t worry about mistakes. Keep moving and let it roll.
10. Thank panel or director at the end.