



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Email additional questions to jbasom@DramaEd.net

CONTENT

How is Drama Works! different from The Drama Game File 2nd Edition CD-ROM?

It is very different. We've moved to the online delivery method, no longer using CD-ROM. The content is completely redone including an all-new lesson plan format, completely rewritten lessons (including dozens of brand new titles), new posters, new chapters...all designed to meet the new theatre TEKS for grades K-12. The Vocabulary Cards is an all-new product. The Creativity Cards are completely redone and have expanded from 6 to 10 categories for 500 cards. We still use the features DGF users love, such as multiple cross indexing to look up lessons by ages, subjects, topics, skills, and learning styles. There is much more for assessment, classroom management, quality questions, high school level material, arts integration, theatre elements, production, and technical theatre.

Is DW just theatre games?

No. It is rooted in a game-based and creative drama approach to teaching, but includes much more than a collection of games. There are detailed lesson plans, activities, and projects. DW also includes curriculum planning guides such as model lessons, units, and scope and sequence mapping. Research, pedagogy, and practice contributed to the development of the complete classroom management system, teaching strategies, and thousands of ideas for integrating drama across the curriculum. DW is a comprehensive teaching system for all ages, subjects, and learning styles.

Does DW include scenes, scripts, or monologues?

No. There are no pre-written scenes, scripts, or monologues included. Instead, we have lessons that can be applied to any script the teacher or students are using. These lessons help students explore the characters, situation, setting, conflicts, relationships, objectives, and tactics to bring the script to life, add detail, or improve believability. Or, use the Creativity Cards and our improvisational storytelling activities to generate new material that can be turned into a written monologue, scene, or script.

What material is included for theatre history?

The glossary in DW Online and the Vocabulary Cards print component include terms, definitions, and examples for a variety of theatre history genres (see the Vocabulary Cards for a digital tour). The index of lessons for Social Studies include dozens of activities ideal for dramatizing historical figures, events, and vocabulary -- all of which can be used to reenact theatre history genres, cultures, playwrights, performers, and events.

What material is included for technical theatre?

The glossary in DW Online and the Vocabulary Cards print component include a variety of technical theatre terms and definitions including set design, lighting, costuming, and makeup (see the Vocabulary Cards for a digital tour). The index of lessons for Elements of Theatre include activities that explore the creative use of sound, music, props, costumes, and set pieces to portray character, setting, and plot. DW is not a program that teaches step by step design or construction of sets, lights, props, or costumes; however, DW does teach vocabulary and technical theatre concepts. It also includes prepared lists of recommended versatile props, costumes, set pieces, sound effects, and music playlists for tempos and moods that can be used in the lesson plans, story dramatization, or theatre productions.

Are there prepared rubrics for assessment?

Yes and no. DW includes detailed instructions in assessment and a step-by-step process for designing a model assessment rubric. It also included beginner, intermediate, and advanced concepts in each lesson plan to use to design a rubric for the level of the students. There is no such thing as a one-size-fits-all assessment rubric, so DW guides the teacher and students in how to create an effective rubric and provides the specific criteria from which to build the performance assessment.

Will the DW Online content change or evolve?

Yes. DW Online includes annual updates to content, features, and videos based on user feedback and need. Licensed teachers will have input into shaping the evolving content, features, and professional development videos.

Is DW Online the same content for grades K-12?

Yes and no. All teachers at all grade levels receive access to the same content, but will use the index by grade levels and other organizational structures within DW Online to find age-appropriate content. We have built in many more instances of scaffolding by beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels to allow teachers to scale down, scale up, or move progressively through a lesson plan or other content. In some cases there are alternate versions of visual aids for elementary and secondary. Much more has been added in the program for high school level and for differentiating levels of experience or complexity.

What percentage of DW content is for high school?

These are rough approximations:

DW content geared towards elementary = 90%

DW content geared towards middle school = 90%

DW content geared towards high school = 90%

Most content applies to a range of grade levels, while some is designed specifically for younger students and other content is designed specifically for older students.

What percentage of the theatre TEKS are met?

We have built in alignment to the new theatre TEKS for all grades, K-12 including Theatre I, II, III, and IV at the high school level. The Texas State Board of Education approved the following percentages by grade level and course:

Grades K-5 = 100% TEKS coverage

Middle School I = 50% TEKS coverage

Middle School II = 54% TEKS coverage

High School Theatre I = 50% TEKS coverage

**Note: we do not agree with these final numbers for secondary levels for the following reasons.*

1) As first-time participants in the adoption process, we were given incorrect information about how to fill out the required correlation documents resulting in automatic rejection of a large number of our submitted correlations. The TEKS-bearing content is still valid and the links to it are provided in DW Online, but they were not considered due to technicalities. 2) Reviewers did not understand some of the connections to content and were not willing to reconsider when provided additional clarifications. 3) We provided additional content and made changes to address concerns related to a number of our TEKS correlations, and TEA had promised that publishers would be given the opportunity to make changes before the review process was completed, however, our changes (which were submitted in time) were not considered or re-reviewed by the committee as had been promised. Our own assessment shows that DW content actually meets the K-12 theatre TEKS as follows.

Grades K-5 = 100% TEKS coverage

Middle School I = 100% TEKS coverage

Middle School II and III = 95% TEKS coverage

High School Theatre I = 90% TEKS coverage

High School Theatre II, III, and IV = 85% TEKS coverage

The missing percentages are mostly related to technical theatre. Components: Digital and Print How are the digital and print components different? DW Online has everything in digital form, including electronic versions of the lesson and cards. The print components are high quality versions of certain aspects of the curriculum such as lesson plans and cards. They save the time and money of printing from online and provide higher quality versions than printing from the digital. The print components also include bonus material and additional details compared to the digital. The cards are easier to read and handle, motivating students, and engaging our “see it-hear it-do it” method of developing vocabulary.

Is the Companion Book the same as DW Online?

Yes and no. The book has all of the lesson plans, indexes, and many handouts and curriculum planning documents from DW Online. The teacher will find much more material by logging into DW Online, however the book allows the teacher to quickly look up the 101 lessons by the 75 indexes in the back, then flip to the front section to “read it and lead it.” The Companion Book is the “offline” version of the lesson planning portions of the online curriculum.

Are the Creativity Cards the same as in DW Online?

The content is the same, but the presentation is improved in the box set with cards that are bigger (3x5), stronger, and more colorful than the online version - a PDF to project or print-and-cut into flash cards (business card size). Plus, the box set version include the bonus ideas on the bottom of many cards (turning 500 cards into 1300 ideas provided), tabs, wild cards, instructions booklet, and durable portable box.

Are the Vocabulary Cards the same as in DW Online?

The content is the same, but the presentation is improved in the box set with cards that are bigger (3x5), stronger, and more colorful than the online version - a PDF to project or print-and-cut into flash cards (business card size). Plus, the box set version include the definitions and examples on back, tabs, instructions booklet, and durable portable box.

When will Drama Works! Online be finished?

We cannot give an exact date as of yet, but are working to complete the new website as soon as possible. It will be ready in time for delivery by summer for implementation for start of school in the fall of 2015 as per TEA requirements. We are working to integrate Texas school district technology requirements to ensure smooth interface and teacher access. Meanwhile you can take a Video Tour of the content on our preview website. We can also schedule a video conference session to show your committee more of the content from DW Online than is viewable on the preview website. Sign up on our mailing list to receive updates when the Drama Works! digital and print components are ready for purchase and delivery.

TECHNOLOGY

What programs are required to access DW content?

Internet browser and PDF reader (Adobe preferred).

What platforms and OS are supported?

Mac, Windows, iOS, Android

Can documents be downloaded for working offline?

No. Content and documents can be viewed, displayed digitally via projection or smartboard, or printed, but cannot be downloaded. The Companion Book is the offline version of the lessons and the Creativity Cards and Vocabulary Cards are the offline versions of the prompts and TEKS-based terminology.

Can the teacher login from home or other location?

Yes. The Licensed teacher can login at any time from any location or any device with Internet connection and a web browser.

How can the district update usernames/passwords?

We are working on building in this capacity and will work with districts on a case by case basis to make the updating process work smoothly for both parties.

Is there an E-version of the textbook?

No. The Licensed teacher must login to view content.

Can any documents be formatted or changed?

No. All content and documents are copyright protected and cannot be altered by the teacher or students.

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LICENSING

What is meant by a Single Teacher License?

For use by one teacher and his or her students. There are no restrictions as to number of computers or devices or students. The License cannot be shared with another teacher.

Do we have to purchase a copy for every student?

No. You purchase a Single Teacher License which includes all of that teacher's students.

Are students allowed to access DW Online?

Yes, but they will not have a separate license or username. They are included in the teacher's license and must have the teacher login to provide them access.

Can the teacher copy and paste DW content?

Yes, a Licensed teacher is allowed to copy and paste from DW into any district required documents, lesson plans, etc., but must be sure to include a reference to the source material and website address. No content, lesson plan, poster, or other DW material may be altered in any way or be shared with any other teacher. DW material may be posted to a class website with access restricted to those students via secure login.

Can a License be transferred to another teacher?

Yes and no. Each license is for one teacher position. If a new teacher is hired, then the license transfers to that new teacher and will no longer be valid for the outgoing teacher. However, you cannot share one license among more than one teacher or rotate it to different teachers in different years. Only district-purchased licenses can be transferred to a newly hired teacher; a license purchased by an individual is not transferrable.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TEACHER SUPPORT

What support do you provide for teachers?

Drama Works! Online will include free on-demand PD videos. In addition, our Professional Development services include teacher-only trainings in person, model demonstration lessons with students, and video conferencing sessions from distance. Plus, you receive free PD services at certain quantities ordered. See Price Sheet for details.

What kinds of videos will be included on DW Online?

Professional development videos (on demand, available any time for licensed users) showing ways to use the DW suite of products for different subjects, grade levels, and topics. Some PD videos will be geared towards theatre specialists and others will be for non-drama teachers such as elementary classroom, music, or English teachers. Over time, we will add videos of activities and lessons in action with students. We plan to work with licensed users to discover their needs and respond with videos to address those needs and help them get more out of Drama Works!

What is covered during in-person PD trainings?

Common topics include: the complete classroom management system for creative expression, arts integration across the curriculum, drama and literacy, model lesson plan structure, meeting the new theatre TEKS, and curriculum planning. We customize PD to fit your needs, objectives, topics, and district initiatives.

ADOPTION OPTIONS, PACKAGES, AND PRICING

What if we don't have elementary theatre teachers?

Most districts do not. But there is still the K-5 theatre TEKS requirement detailed in Texas House Bill 5. The question is who will be responsible for meeting those TEKS? Most districts choose to designate the classroom teacher. In some cases, the elementary music teachers may combine music and drama instruction. We have the materials and PD expertise to help you equip and train elementary classroom and/or music teachers to meet the theatre TEKS and integrate drama pedagogy across the curriculum.

Do we have to purchase print materials every year?

No. You purchase the print components once, but must renew the digital access each year. You also have 2, 4, or 8-year digital access options as well as renewals for 1, 2, or 4 years if you do not purchase all 8 years up front. See Price Sheet for details. You will have the option to purchase replacement components (book or cards products) if needed.

Are volume licensing discounts available?

No. The state EMAT ordering system only allows for bundles or kits. We have built in 3 different options per teacher (online only, digital print package, and complete system) with increasing discounts for number of years of digital access, but there is no way to offer additional discounts. We are offering free staff development for volume orders starting at 50 licenses. See Price Sheet for details.

What districts in Texas have adopted this program?

Our curriculum has been adopted for all theatre teachers in districts such as Houston, Dallas, Southwest, and Corpus Christi ISD. We have conducted large-scale, multi-year implementations with elementary generalist teachers in districts such as Waco, Tyler, and Brownsville ISD. The creator, Mr. Jonas Basom, has been a keynote presenter for TETA Summerfest and ESC Region 7, and a frequent presenter at the annual TETA Theatrefest Convention. The program has also been required as a college textbook for teachers at Texas universities such as Howard Payne, St. Thomas, UT Corpus Christi, and UT Austin. See [Testimonials](#) and [Professional Development](#) for reactions from teachers and administrators to our materials and trainings.