Directing Act 4

Act IV of *Romeo and Juliet* poses two major challenges for the director: *Length and Tone*

With your group, you will be in charge of directing and performing a scene from Act 4.

**Step One: Assign Roles and Name your Acting Company**
- Your group will need a person to play each part as well as a director/scribe.
  - The director will also be everyone’s understudy for the actual performance.
- Do not worry about the gender of the parts too much. Remember that in Shakespeare’s time all of the parts would have been played by men.
- If you cannot decide on roles, Mr. M will decide for you. 😊
- Try to pick a name for your acting company that is in the style of Shakespeare’s time. (Lord Chamberlain’s Men, The King’s Men, The Black Friar Acting Company, etc.)

**Step Two: Facing the Challenge of Length:** Your entire scene must contain all relevant plot information from the scene, but can only be sixty seconds long.

1. As a group, decide on the most important plot points for your scene. The scribe will write down the list.
2. *Keep in Mind:*
   a. What does the audience need to know for the story to move forward?
   b. Which characters are the most important?
3. Make sure everyone’s name is on this paper.

**Step Three: Facing the Challenge of Tone and Writing:** Each group will be provided with a tone or attitude that must be made clear in the new version of the scene.

*On a New Sheet of Paper*
1. Use the text to create a new script for your scene.
2. *Keep in Mind:*
   a. What lines that are most important to the plot?
   b. What lines that could emphasize the tone or attitude you are working with?
3. Your scene should have between 20 and 30 lines to meet the time requirements.
4. Double-space your script.
5. Make sure everyone’s name is on this paper.

**Step Four: Direction and Performance:** Stage and rehearse your scene.

1. Focus on making your *tone/attitude* clear in the scene.
   a. *Actors:* How will you deliver your lines? How will you react to other actors?
   b. *Director:* Where will your actors be positioned? How close will they be to the other actors? Are they delivering the lines the best way they can? Are they reacting appropriately?