

Teaching Tangible Empathy

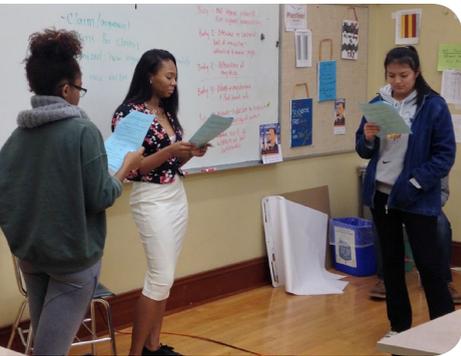
The act of crafting a play is fundamentally an exercise in empathy and problem-solving—how does it feel to be in this character's position? What should your character do in order to overcome the challenges ahead? To find out, you must inhabit the character and write about him or her believably.

As with any skill, empathy behaves like a muscle: with use, it grows strong. EPIC serves as the regimen by which students exercise this muscle, increasing their capacity to see the world from a compassionate point of view.

"If my play about prejudice was going to be good, I had to write from my antagonist's perspective. I realized that person wasn't so different than me. I still didn't agree with the character's

actions, but by the end of the writing process, I couldn't hate that type of person anymore. I think I made the first step toward solving prejudice."

—12th grade English student



Bring EPIC to your school!

Are you interested in bringing EPIC to your school or getting more information?

Email brent@silkroadrising.org
or call 312-857-1234 x204.

Check out our website:
<http://www.learnplaywriting.org>

Each 16-session residency costs \$2,500, but grants up to full cost are available. Contact us to find out more.



Improve your **Creative Schools Certification** with EPIC today!
CPS Vendor Number: 68933

Mission Statement

EPIC employs a hands-on approach to realizing empathy by harnessing the transformative power of playwriting. Students engage with unique experiences and differing perspectives to write original ten-minute plays. Through this act of play creation, students expand their understanding of civic engagement, tolerance, and the importance of storytelling.

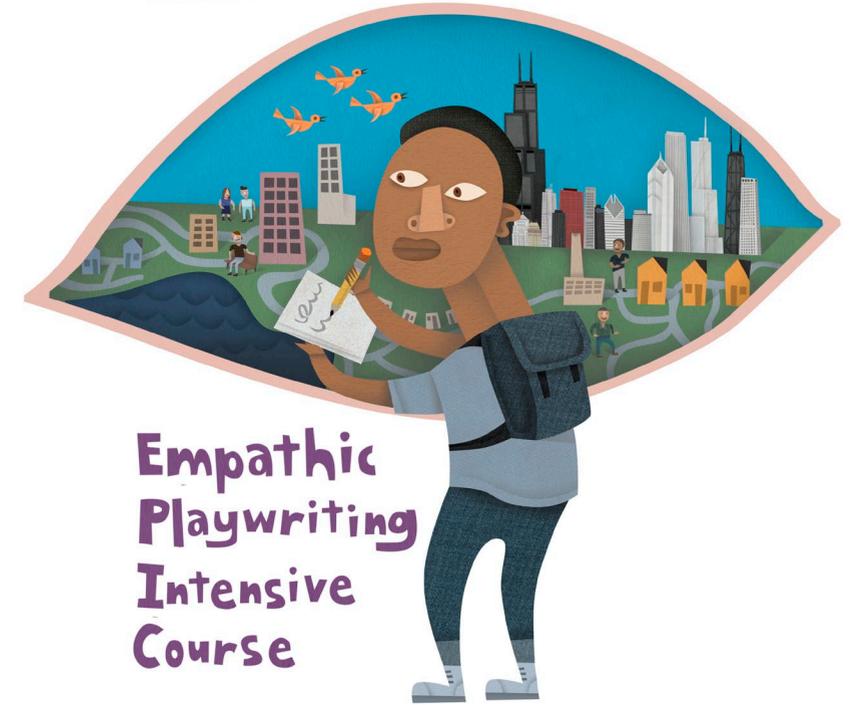
Who is EPIC good for?

- English classes
- creative writing classes
- history and social studies classes
- theatre/drama classes
- senior studies and school success classes



EPIC is a program delivered by Silk Road Rising.

EPIC



Empathic Playwriting Intensive Course

EPIC is a 16-session classroom-based arts integration program constructed to meet Common Core Standards for reading, writing, speaking, and listening.



About our Teaching Artists

EPIC teaching artists are enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and working playwrights with CPS teaching experience. Our teaching artists collaborate with the classroom teacher to tailor EPIC's curriculum to the specific class.

"I was very impressed with [the teaching artist]! She was eager to collaborate about best practices for my class, and in a short time she forged a strong presence with my students."

—11th grade English teacher



Theatre Objectives Overview

- define civic engagement and understand its role in theatre
- practice critiquing plays in peer workshop
- apply improv skills to scenework
- create unique characters
- learn proper play formatting
- understand the importance of stakes in creating engaging theatre
- explore the process by which ideas develop into plays
- incorporate physical movement into dramatic writing
- differentiate between conflict and argument
- sharpen textual analysis skills



EPIC teaching artist partners with a classroom teacher

Videographer records performances

Professional actors perform student plays

Students write 10-minute plays based on *empathy*

Students participate in interactive theatre lessons

Sharing EPIC

The videographer uploads student plays to YouTube, and students can share their work with family and friends.

"I had no idea how deep of a thinker [student] was until I saw his play. His understanding of empathy might even be more advanced than mine at this point. I was so proud I sent the link to all our family."

—parent of a 10th grade English student

"I got goose bumps watching professional actors bring my work to life!"

—11th grade theatre student



EPIC and the Common Core

The EPIC curriculum is designed to meet multiple high school Common Core Standards each day including:

- ALL of the Writing Standards
- ALL of the Speaking and Listening Standards
- ALL of the Language Standards
- most Reading Standards for Literature
- most Reading Standards for Informational Text
- most Reading Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies
- most Writing Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects

EPIC also meets most of the Illinois Fine Arts Drama Performance Descriptors and most of the Illinois Standards for Social/Emotional Learning.

"We exercise multiple Common Core standards in each class. It's incredible. The students don't even realize how much they are accomplishing while having fun."

—9th grade history teacher