

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The Conscious Performer

## WHAT IS AN ACTING TACTIC?

**Tactics:** are the different strategies (actions) used to overcome the obstacle and to obtain the objective (reach the goal).

- ★ Tactics are always written as present tense action verbs (ie. To shock, to bribe, to \_\_\_\_\_)
- ★ In a well-marked script, actors work until each beat is assigned a tactic.
- ★ Tactics are written onto the script in pencil and are placed directly above the beat.
- ★ Strong tactics go beyond the obvious. Instead of 'to hit', 'to smack'. Instead of 'to talk', 'to bark'. Instead of 'to touch', 'to caress'. Actors know that the thesaurus is a great tool to help them uncover new and/or more detailed words that can help them to fully express what they want.
- ★ Tactics have high stakes.

### Class Brainstorm

**As a class let's find the acting tactics in this scene. Write each tactic in *pencil* directly above the beat.**

**Maria:** (Holding out scissors) Por favor, Anita. / Make the neck lower!

**Anita:** Stop it, Maria.

**Maria:** One inch. How much can one little inch do?

**Anita:** Too much.

**Maria:** / (Exasperated) Anita, it is now to be a dress for dancing and no longer for kneeling in front of an altar.

**Anita:** With those boys you can start in dancing and end up kneeling.

**Maria:** Querida, one little inch; una poca poca –

**Anita:** Bernardo made me promise–

**Maria:** Ai! Bernardo! / One month have I been in this country– do I ever even touch excitement? I sew all day, I sit all night. For what did my fine brother bring me here?

**Anita:** To marry Chino.

**Maria:** When I look at Chino, nothing happens.

**Anita:** What do you expect to happen?

**Maria:** I don't know: something. What happens when you look at Bernardo?

**Anita:** It's when I don't look that it happens.

**Maria:** I think I will tell Mama and Papa about you and ‘Nardo in the balcony of the movies.

**Anita:** I’ll rip this to shreds!

**Maria:** No But if you perhaps could manage to lower the neck–

**Anita:** Next year.

---

**(OVER)**

### **Partner Work**

1. In your scene partnership pairs, identify at least three tactics in your scene for each character. One in the beginning, middle and end. Write each tactic above the beat in your scene with pencil. If your partner is not here today, mark only the beats in your lines.
2. When you have finished marking tactics in your scene, work on memorization.