

Marion Cilker Conference for the Arts Education
Workshop: **Name the Monster: Improv Games for Writing**
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Improvisation: “Yes-And” Dialogue Using Top Five Rules of Improv

Yes-And Basic Example:

Character #1: What a hot and miserable day to be a ranch hand, brother!

Following the “Yes And” method, Character #2 will accept the premise and add onto the situation.

Character #2: Yep, and the boss said we don't get no water until this fence is mended.

Character #1: Yes, and ain't he the meanest man we've ever worked for?

Character #2: Yep, and it's made me think about leaving behind this cowboy life and headin' off for San Francisco.

*Now, the scene could continue on indefinitely with the actors simply agreeing with one another. However, **it's best to develop conflict as well**. Even though the performers constantly affirm each response, that doesn't mean they can't argue.*

A “Yes” Argument Example:

Character #2: Yep, and it's made me think about leaving behind this cowboy life and headin' off for San Francisco.

Character #1: Yes, and you'd be broke in twenty minutes after stepping off the stage coach.

Character #2: Yeah, and I suppose you think you could do better?

Character #1: Yes! And after I made my fortune panning for gold I'll come back and buy this here ranch and you'll be working for me!

After working on “Yes And” exercises, actors ultimately learn how to do scenes in which they embrace the ideas and concepts offered by fellow performers. You don't actually need to say the words, “Yes And” for the system to work. Simply affirm what the character is saying and allow it to build the scene.

Other ways of saying, “Yes” are: sure, yeah, yep, okay, absolutely, all right, no problem, of course, agreed, fair enough, and so many more.