

Frame distance

Adapted from 'Role Function and Frame Distance', Dorothy Heathcote, 1980.

Type of role	Their responsibility in a drama
Participant	I am in the middle of the situation, experiencing it. It is happening to me now.
Observer / guide	I saw what happened. I can describe for you what I saw and enact the event for you, though I may or may not understand it. I was there.
Agent	I act on behalf of society / authority to provide a focus for community thought and action.
Authority	I have a professional role to fulfil in relation to what has occurred. I have decisions to make and I may need to take, advise or order action.
Priest / Shaman / spiritual guide / philosopher	I must interpret these events in terms of the world view which I represent in society. I have a duty to reveal the implications of what has taken place to those in particular who share my beliefs and to society in general.
Recorder	It is my duty to record the details of this event so that people now and in the future may not be ignorant of these things.
The Media (press, TV, radio, Internet)	I must investigate this event, and must choose what part of it to reveal to the public in the context of the world as I and my employer see it.
Researcher	My job is to see how much I can find out about the event from contemporary evidence so that new light may be cast on it now.
Artist	I must transform this event into a form which will communicate something of its essence to humanity.

Responsibility, interest, attitude, behaviour