Figure 7.5: Tableau Assignment Sheet with Teacher Directions and Potential Student Responses

Tableau Assignment

Arrange students in trios for this assignment. Choose a student who will videotape the tableaus to use for audience reactions or students can conduct live tableaus.

Planning and Presenting

Ask students the following questions and instruct them on their planning and presenting.

1. What particular scene in *Romeo and Juliet* in Act 3 is most pivotal? Justify your response to support why you think it is most pivotal.

   - Note: Students might choose one of these scenes—
     - Death of Mercutio
     - Romeo kills Tybalt
     - Juliet decides if she stays by Romeo's side or leaves him because he kills Tybalt
     - Romeo gets banished from Verona

2. You will create a tableau based on this scene. In a tableau, you will freeze in place to capture it. Pay particular attention to the following when you plan and present your tableau:
   - What characters are featured in your tableau?
   - How are the characters positioned? For example, are they standing, sitting, or crouching?
   - What facial expressions do the characters show? What do you want the audience to feel? How can each of you capture their emotion through facial features?
   - What gestures will the characters use? How will you position your hands to convey this scene?

Audience Reaction

Lead a discussion after each group appears on the video or performs in person using the questions from this section. Then ask the tableau group if the audience response matched their intentions. Also ask them if they would change their tableau in any way.

3. As you watch each tableau, answer these questions:
   - Which scene is this? Do you think it is one of the pivotal scenes and why? Show your understanding of the text when responding.
   - What particular aspect of this tableau best reflects the scene and why?