



## MONOLOGUES

This monologue is from a Stage Partners play, free to read in full at [yourstagepartners.com](http://yourstagepartners.com).

### #CENSORED by Maria McConville

*(After a scandalous piece of art is censored at school, DANA confronts the matter in her own way. She enters holding a large piece of white tape.)*

#### DANA

I thought art was supposed to be pretty.  
And nice.  
And, maybe even...entertaining?  
I just don't understand the type of person who ENJOYS upsetting others.  
It's clear the artist...  
I'm new? So I don't know their name...  
The artist wanted to make a statement.  
But I mean, isn't the whole point of a painting to please the viewer?  
That's why people hang them on their walls.  
I would NEVER hang that on my wall.  
Imagine seeing that at a hotel?  
Or in your dentist's office?  
Or in a lobby?  
I don't see the reason to make people upset with your work.  
I don't see the reason to make people angry with you...or with anything.  
There's already so much scariness, ugliness...brutality, even.  
Violence on TV, in the news, online. Even in school now.  
Shootings.  
Terrorism.  
There's swearing and sex and drugs and stuff everywhere you look.  
Just watch one minute of *Law & Order: SVU*.  
I don't think we need more in school.  
Or in art.  
Why not write a beautiful piece of music?  
Why not do a still-life of a lake?  
Why does everything have to be so dark and angry?  
Just to be cool?  
Well, if that's what coolness is, it's not my thing.  
I don't like tension.  
I don't like people arguing.  
I think art should soothe.



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It should be beautiful.

*(DANA walks towards the painting with the tape.)*

Otherwise, why are we even looking at it?

*(DANA places the piece of tape over the painting.)*

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**Length:** 30-35 minutes

**Cast Size:** 7-30 actors (suggested casting: 12 any)

**Genre:** Drama

**Synopsis:** In this ensemble-driven drama, a school art fair becomes embroiled in controversy when a student unveils a divisive painting. Students, parents, and teachers must ask themselves tough questions about freedom of speech, appropriateness, what art is supposed to do and “what is the cost of censorship?”