**The Guideposts from the book *Audition!***

**by Michael Shurtleff**

(as taught by former Chicago casting director, Jane Brody.)

In this workshop, we’ll focus on the guideposts in **BOLD** type.

1. **RELATIONSHIP**

Who are you talking to? (Be SPECIFIC and personal: My best friend Sue, my brother, my mom, etc. It’s always ONE person you know well.) When you’re truly talking to a friend, nuances of your personality will bubble out automatically. This makes you more real, human, and conversational.

2. CONFLICT

3. **THE MOMENT BEFORE**

What happened just before the start of the “scene” that compels you to speak? Use your imagination! What has your imaginary scene partner asked you? Repeat this question as your trigger, then answer it. (Edit it later.) Thus, you aren't just starting the copy from thin air -- you’re communicating for an important, personal, specific reason.

4. **HUMOR**

It’s okay to laugh in the read… a chuckle, a nervous laugh – humor makes you more human! Humor helps us cope with life’s difficult moments. (Note: humor is not the same as comedy!)

5. OPPOSITES

6. **DISCOVERIES**

Does the copy change tone? Offer a problem / solution? Shift focus? Use these to renew energy and shift your tone.

7. COMMUNICATION AND COMPETITION

8. **IMPORTANCE**

9. EVENTS

10. **PLACE**

Where are you? The coffee shop? The booth at the back of the bar? The kitchen table at midnight? This will inform the tone of your read.

11. GAME PLAYING and ROLE PLAYING

12. **MYSTERY AND SECRET**

Try delivering one line of the copy as a “just between you and me” secret. It’s as if you’re saying, “Now get this, I’m telling only you…”

A more in depth list can be found here: [www.actingstudiochicago.com/shurtleffs-guideposts](http://www.actingstudiochicago.com/shurtleffs-guideposts)