



CLAY BANKS STUDIO  
INTERNATIONAL

## CBSI's Cold Reading/Line Lifting Checklist

*(Read and follow before your cold reads)*

Follow closely and continue to use this sheet as a guide for *all cold reads* until you've got it memorized! Do the work consistently.

First, remember that this is **COLD READING!** Do not work on memorizing lines.

Do not write on or highlight any of the copy - CBSI is a **NO HIGHLIGHTER ZONE**. If you'd like to make notes on your sides, it's OK to make a copy for yourself. Also, hold your copy with **ONE HAND**.

- READ THROUGH** your scene a couple times **BY YOURSELF**. *Do Not memorize!*
- Speak all of the words **OUT LOUD**. Know all the words and say them all fully.
- Work out any words or phrases that are hanging you up or causing you to stumble.
- Understand the **WHO - WHAT - WHERE** of the scene.
  - WHO** am I? (Not just labels. Use Descriptive Adjectives.)
  - WHO** is the other person? (No labels. I.e. Dad, Girlfriend, Lawyer, etc.)
  - WHAT** is the nature of your emotional relationship? (Familiar - Unfamiliar)
  - WHAT** is the situation in the scene - What's it about? (Writer's Intent)
  - WHAT** do I want/need from the other person? (Your Intention/Motive)
  - WHAT** compels you to move towards activation with passion? (Need/Motivation)
  - WHERE** does the situation take place? (Imagine your Environment - Non Geographical)
- Identify your **RELATIONSHIP** with your scene partner. This is **KEY**... and will be a continual coaching note for you. *Concentration of your attention on your scene partner through your own character work will give you your greatest results.* RELATIONSHIP with nouns is KEY!
- Remember 90-10. YOUR EYES** should only be looking at one of **TWO THINGS**: your partner's **EYES 90% (ideal)** and the **COPY 10%**. **That's it. KEEP FOCUSED!**
- Read the scene **OUT LOUD** together **ONLY** if your scene involves more than **TWO PEOPLE**. This is to understand the scene's timing, flow and pacing.

Don't stress over getting it right! **ALLOW THE MOMENTS TO HAPPEN.**