Definitions Essay: Break A Leg

Simone always dreamed of being an actress, she knew it was not an easy task so as a child she started to analyze and gain a better understanding of the art theater by gathering information leering the history and even starring in plays in her local community center. As become older the thought of being a young adult pursuing a career in theater become a dream. After auditioning she gets the lead in the play this is her moment to break out and make her mark in the Broadway business. But right when she walks out to start her performance, her peer comes behind her and gently taps her shoulder saying the encouraging words in the Broadway ‘world’. “Good Luck, Simone Break a Leg”. By being a part of the theater ‘world’ she knew the meaning of the word not taking offense.

To begin with, “Break a leg” originated in show business and formed and made familiar by the production of theater acts. Rooting from a German language starting as “breaking your neck and leg” transcending into the English language. That created an ongoing superstition within the ‘show business world’. Along with other meanings in different parts of the world.

Now that, the phrase “break a leg” is associated with relating to the theater ‘world’. Meaning “good luck” to the ones who are aware and the meaning of the term. Ironically saying “good job or do a good job.” In the beginning of productions of plays, saying “break a leg” was considered a superstition that caused the performers or performer to do a bad job and cause the show to be ‘bad’. Before doing research on this phrase many outsiders infer that this phrase means to break a limb in an insult or threat of harming one.

 Given these points, having a better perspective of what the phrase “break a leg” informs ‘outsiders’ to look beyond the words and just analyze the meaning of the words. It relates to the ‘show business’ coming from the word “Break your neck and leg” in German. Over time the phrase translated to “break a leg” in English meaning good luck.