Time Line

Time lines are visual representations of historical eras; a variety of disciplines use them. Each chapter in the book provides a starting place for building a time line. The time line can be a single or multiple historical eras posted in the classroom or developed as an electronic document. Photos, music clips, video clips, podcasts, and URLs can enhance the time line for a particular historical period.

A time line can be specific to a historical era and the events that took place during that time period. Or, the time line can contain a number of historical eras, identifying historical events as the backdrop. Additional time lines can be superimposed. Layering of time lines provides a way to gain a sense of the historical context and connections between topics. For the history of dance, the obvious focus would be to include dancers, choreographers, personalities, dances, dance works, and dance literature. Additional topics could be visual arts, music, drama, movies, technology, and science. This provides you with a visual model from which you can see different events and determine relationships between them, including cause and effect.

Starting with chapter 1, you can set up a time line project that will cover the chapters in the book. Preparing a time line of this magnitude should take some planning as to where you will post it (either on the Web or in the classroom or both). Also, the magnitude of the time line (what it will include) should be determined. A time line can be a simple recording of dance through the ages. Because later in the book the focus shifts to dancers, choreographers, and other personalities, these components should be considered. A person or a significant work could be written information that includes the person’s birth and death dates and perhaps the person’s most significant contribution. The person entry could also include a significant dance work, the date of its premier performance, the company, and the place. The time line entry could include a photo, a video interview of or by the person, or a short video from the dance work.

The complexity of this project depends on class time, students, and class resources.