

Assessment Task for Creative Dance

Following a creative dance unit that included a series of instructional tasks that prompted students' creativity, the teacher assigns a group dance performance. Students develop a dance while working with a group using the elements of dance and choreography learned in class. The dance must include at least four locomotor and nonlocomotor movements and a minimum of one component from space, effort, and relationship awareness.

Directions for Teachers

Students will design a movement sequence that shows changes in levels, directions, and pathways. There also will be a change of effort (includes time, force, or flow). Students must move to an external beat (e.g., music, drum, etc.), or if no external beat is used, students will perform with rhythm. Students must demonstrate the ability to perform at least four different locomotor and nonlocomotor movements (they cannot be all locomotor or all nonlocomotor). The length of these dances will vary, but a minute of material is considered sufficient. Students will describe the relevant BSER movement elements demonstrated in the dance with an essay that accompanies the performance (*Note:* Teachers may give the option of an oral presentation of this information for students who have difficulty expressing themselves with written work.) Students must be able to repeat the performance (i.e., dance is choreographed, not done spontaneously).

Specific Directions for Students

Find your own personal space and create a movement sequence that you will perform live for your class or video-record. Working with your group, create a short dance that has three dependent shapes connected by action words. Your movement sequence must have at least four locomotor or nonlocomotor movements and show changes in levels, directions, and pathways. To make the sequence interesting, you will show changes of effort that include time, force, or flow. Your sequence can be as long as you like, but you must be able to do the same sequence more than once. In an essay, you will describe how your dance demonstrates your knowledge of the BSER movement components taught during this dance unit.

Equipment Necessary

Something to generate an external beat: music played through a CD or MP3 player, a drum, etc.