

<insert hyperlink for Strand 4. Standard 4.1 Handout: Site Specific Choreography.>

## Site Specific Choreography Lesson Plan Handout

### Points of Reference When Observing Movement

#### Logistical/Technical Components

1. Timing: *Quick* or *Sustained* use of time. Time may also be *Neutral* if the timing stays flat and never changes.
2. Levels: *High*, *Mid*, or *Low* levels can be used in dances. (Most movement happens in Mid-level; however, jumps and floor work become more dynamic due to their shift in level)
3. Pathways: The general direction of the movement may take a *Circular*, *Straight*, *Spiral*, *Diagonal*, or *Meandering* pathway.
4. Weight: The quality of the movements can be *Weighted/Heavy*, *Light*, or *Neutral*. Neutral is when the movement does not engage the use of weight/groundedness or purposeful lack-there-of.
5. Body: Initiations for movement come from different parts of the body or may be focused in one area of the body. Commenting on the use of a particular body part and/or where a movement is initiated from can give clarification to the movement itself.
6. Flow: *Free* or *Bound* flow. How free and flowing verses tense and bound shows more dynamics to the movement.
7. Relationship: Relationship can be toward another person, a group of people, or to the space being performed inside.

Relationship looks at partnering work such as *Mirroring*, *Counter-Tension*, *Contact*, and *Filling Negative Space*. Relationship also looks at the individual in relation to the group: *Solo*, *Duet*, *Trio*, *Coure de Danse*. Finally, relationship looks at the dancer in spatial reference to the stage: *Downstage*, *Upstage*, and other more specific placements and/or relations to the audience.

#### Personal Components

The above components of movement combine to connect certain emotions, storylines, or sensations to the audience. The audience's reaction is just as important as the dance itself. Questions for yourself when watching movement are:

1. How does the dancing make me feel?
2. What physical responses happen in my own body while watching the movement?
3. Do I perceive a story happening through movement?
4. How do I connect personally with the story and/or movement being performed?

## **Other Components**

Many factors contribute to the overall sensation of a dance. Listed below are other factors to consider in observing and critiquing movement.

Costumes

Lighting

Scenery

Music Choices

How do those components contribute to the overall ideas of the dance?

## **THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS TO ASK AFTER MAKING ALL THE ABOVE OBSERVATIONS IS**

### **WHY?**

Why did the choreographer choose to use certain logistical components?

Why did the dancers portray the movement the way they did?

Why did you have the response you did to the movement?

Other questions . . .

### *Note*

*Obviously when watching live performances, they do not pause for you to take notice of every one of the listed elements. With that in mind, try and observe the components that you notice the most. Comment on what you see and don't worry if you didn't see everything. Just be thorough with what you do choose to critique.*

### **Potential Topics to Choose From:**

Love, Pain, Revenge, Death, Nature, Forgiveness

Loss of Innocence, Hope, Joy, Religion, Fear

News/Current events, Home, Self-Image, Family, Politics

Peace, Childhood, Growing Older, War, Technology

New Beginnings, Weather, School, Disease, Music

Friends, Anger, Work, Success, Sadness, Parents

Failure, Travel, Money, Stress, Culture/Heritage

Earth/Planet

## Developing a Theme with Movement

Student Names for Group: \_\_\_\_\_

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Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Theme: (What message do you want to say about the topic?)

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Designing Movement to Support the Theme:

Time: Quick Neutral Sustained

Level: High Medium Low

Space: Direct Neutral Indirect

Pathway: Straight Curved Meandering

Weight: Heavy Neutral Light

Energy: Intense Moderate Sluggish

Flow: Bound Neutral Free

Body: Whole Body Gesture (Part)

Size: Big Medium Small

Emotion: Happy Sad Mad

Relationship: Volatile Neutral Harmonious

\*Create a movement or movement sequence that shows the story or message of your theme using the movement qualities circled above.

### Example of Story Board

Free storyboard templates: <https://boords.com/storyboard-template>











