

Dance Performance Critique Requirements
Level 1 Classes

FIND A PERFORMANCE NOW!!!!

Remember, this paper counts as 15% of your grade, so take it seriously! You **MUST** include the ticket stub or program from this performance to receive credit!

All students enrolled in a dance class are required to view an outside dance performance and type a 3-5 page, double spaces critique on this performance. You may view any concert dance performance as long as there is enough content for a critique and you've cleared it with me. You should try to find a performance in the same genre as the class you are taking this semester. For example, if you are enrolled in a ballet class, it would be more appropriate for you to see a ballet performance than a hip hop performance.

You will need to write your paper in paragraph form including an introduction, a body, and a conclusion. You will choose two pieces or two dance sections of the performance to write about. You will then compare and contrast these two pieces as outlined below. You will need to be specific in your recollection of detail when you write about it so it is best to take detailed notes on your program while the piece is on stage to facilitate accuracy and to prevent you from forgetting important details. Always back up statements using details, with specific reasons that support your conclusions. Imagine that the reader has never experienced this performance and it is your responsibility to communicate this experience to the reader.

In the introduction, make sure to include:

- the name of the dance company/performance you are seeing.
- the type of dance genre (ballet, modern, jazz, musical theatre, etc.).
- the names of the two pieces you have chosen to compare and contrast.

In the body, make sure to include:

- A thorough discussion of piece #1 with respect to the following elements
- Theme- In your opinion what was the artist trying to convey? Did it tell a story? Did it evoke a mood? Was it a music visualization with the movement being used to illustrate the music? Was the piece purely kinetic with dynamic movement itself as the focus? Was it purely an exploration of line and shape in space? Did other elements work together to help create the theme or work against it? What did it remind you of? Remember, this is your own personal opinion! You cannot be wrong. Five different people seeing these pieces would all get something completely different from it. You have no way of knowing what the choreographer actually intended. This is purely your own impression.

- Music- Describe the music used. Was it melodic or percussive? Lushly orchestrated or electronic? Rhythmic or syncopated? How did the music make you feel? Did the music seem to enhance the movement or create a contrast? Do you feel it was an effective choice? What did you like or dislike about the music?
- Costumes- What were the costumes like? Describe color as well as fabric. Were they light and airy? Were they stark and form fitting? Did they portray a character? Did they move with the dancers catching air or did they appear heavy and motionless? Did they enhance the line of movement (perhaps a large voluminous skirt with high leg extensions)? Did they appear to fit the mood, style, period for the piece or did they create direct contrast to the type of movement?
- Lighting- Was the lighting effective? Was the stage light or dark? Were different variations of color used? Were there any special lighting techniques used (use of spots, specials, slides, etc.) and if so, how did they affect the mood? How did the lighting affect the emotional quality of the dances?
- Technique- How was the performance from a technical standpoint? Were the dancers strong and prepared for the performance? Were there lots of turns? A predominance of lyrical gestures or were movements primarily percussive? Was there an abundance of jumps? Was partnering an integral part of the choreography? Was the choreography innovative and interesting to watch? Were the dancers dancing together? Were there any noticeable mistakes? If so, what called your attention to the mistakes?
- Performance- Look at the performance quality. Were the dancers dynamic? Did they project emotion and feeling through their dancing and facial expressions? Were they able to project performance energy out beyond the stage space and into the audience? How did the dance performance, particular dances, or certain dancers make you feel?
- Now, repeat the discussion process for the second piece then compare and contrast the two pieces regarding elements. For example, how were the costumes similar between the two pieces? Or were they markedly different, and if so, how?

In the conclusion, make sure to include:

- Overall Impression- What was your favorite part of the performance and why? What in particular did you like and dislike most about the performance?
- Imagine your parents viewed these pieces. What would they have liked and disliked about them? Why? Is there something about their background, culture, or their childhood that would influence their feelings about these pieces? What about your grandparents?