

Elements of Dance - Shape Study

Creating a Shape Chain

Summary

This activity is an entry point for students to enjoy creating different dance shapes through inspirations and observations from visual examples from supporting material and teacher modelling. This activity also helps to set a positive and safe environment for students to express their individual ideas, which leads them into building their teamwork skills.

Learning Objectives

- To familiarize with different body shapes that a body can make
 - To explore possibilities of the use of various levels and directions
 - To build teamwork
 - To adapt the use of demonstration and observation as a positive routine to assess each other's work
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Basic Activity Steps

1. Have a few volunteers from the class to read the instruction of the activity.
 - Discuss and review some of the keywords: chain, interpretation, inspiration, shapes, levels, directions, neutral position (emotions, facial expression)
2. A teacher to demonstrate how to interpret the shape.
 - Find and try a shape from Slide #3 (Dancers in different shapes.)
 - *Interpret the shape by changing shape of arms, levels, or directions to make it more interesting while explaining what you are changing i.e.) "I think I want to change the level to low and maybe balance on one leg!"

TEACHER TIP

***TO MAKE THIS ACTIVITY MORE FUN WHILE MODELING TO INTERPRET A SHAPE, A TEACHER CAN ASK THE CLASS TO SUGGEST IDEAS TO CHANGE THE SELECTED SHAPE.**

3. Provide students 3 minutes to find the shape and try interpreting it.
4. Assign each student a number from one, but make sure to assign numbers to flow in a circle like a chain-shape.
5. Students stand in a neutral position. On teacher's cues, start creating a dance shape chain by each dancer freeze in their shapes until the last assigned number student freezes in their shape.

6. Reflection

- Was creating a dance chain with the class successful?
 - What worked well? What did not work well? What would you like to try next time?
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Advanced Options:

(Building off the above activity)

Small Group Work

1. Building a Dance Sequence. Have volunteers from the class to read the instruction of the activity.
 - Discuss the steps and approach for working in small groups (can chart students' ideas)
 - Discuss the steps on building a story. How many parts are there?
 - Review some of the keywords: chain, interpretation, inspiration, shapes, levels, directions, neutral position (emotions, facial expression)
 - Additional keywords for small group work: connection, transition, combination, sequence
 2. A teacher along with one or two students to demonstrate how to share ideas for working in small groups.
 - Create your own shapes or use Slide #3 for inspiration.
 - *Interpret the body moves by using curved, expanded, angular shapes and changing levels, or directions to make it more interesting while explaining what you are creating i.e.) "I think we could try creating a curve or circular shape in a low level. The second shape could be expanded, and maybe balancing on one leg!"
 3. Provide students 5 minutes to share their ideas and try interpreting it.
 4. Decide which group will share the Building a Sequence.
 5. Feedback
 - Students share feedback – glow
 6. Reflection
 - Was your group successful in building a dance sequence? Why or why not?
 - What would you do differently? What would you like your group to try out the next time?
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Activity Extensions

Dance Shape Physical Collage

- Create a collage in an open space (students must find space to fill with their selected shape- the use of levels and directions are explored)
- Decide on which emotion to display as a group (both physical and facial expressions are expected) and demonstrate the shapes on cue of "3,2,1 Action" from the other group.
- The observing group must guess what emotion the demonstrating group has portrayed.