

Guide to Prepositional Poetry and Dance Composition

Step One: Graffiti Mural

As a group, examine the departure images and select one image to inspire your poetry and dance composition. Paste the image at the centre of your mural paper. Fill the page with words that come to mind as you examine the image. Do this activity in complete silence.

Step Two: Prepositional Poem

As a group, compose a prepositional poem, based on your image and related words. Your poem should be 5 -7 lines. Each line must begin with a preposition. (See the attached list of prepositions).

Step Three: Dance Phrases

- Compose a phrase of movement to accompany each line of your poem. Review the success criteria below, and reference **BLM#10: Elements of Dance** for more detail.

The following elements will help you to communicate your meaning:

Body: variations in body shapes (open/closed, symmetrical/asymmetrical; balanced/off balance); leading with different body parts (head, elbow, knee, shoulder)

Relationships: where are you positioned in relationship to each other? Where are your eyes looking?

Space:

Formations- e.g. circle, square, scattered, two lines facing the same way two lines back to back, diamond, horseshoe, circle, circle within a circle

Traveling- Are we going to travel through the space? How? Will we use the floor? Will we use space above us?

Energy: variations in dynamics (*light – strong; flowing- staccato*)

Time: variations in tempo (*fast – slow/slow-fast, stillness, beat and rhythm*)

- Explore and experiment with the elements.
- Find a way to seamlessly connect the movement phrases.
- Establish a clear beginning and ending (*e.g. entrance and exit, or freeze*).
- Rehearse, rehearse, rehearse!

Step Four: Layering the Poem with the Movement

Find a way to share your poem with your dance. Here are some possible options:

- 1) have one group member read the poem before you perform your dance
- 2) have one group member read the poem after you perform your dance
- 3) ask the teacher or a classmate from another group to read the poem while you perform your dance
- 4) have each group member say 1-2 lines of the while you perform the related phrase
- 5) project the poem for viewers to read while you perform

Step Five: Perform!