Social, Political, Environmental, and Economic Change Through Contemporary Dance

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HISTORY

Workers Dance League
“Dance Is a Weapon in the Revolutionary Class Struggle”

- Anna Sokolow
- *Case History No.* – 1937
- Depicts homeless teenager
- Accusation of the lack of social services for teenagers in New York City
GOAL

Create and conduct contemporary dance classes to inspire students to promote social, environmental, political, and economic change

Student learning objectives

At the successful completion of this class, students will demonstrate:

• Increased ability in contemporary dance
• Skills to critically analysis dance as a catalyst for social change
METHOD

I taught a contemporary movement class at Fort Hayes Metropolitan Education Center on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays for seven weeks.

On Mondays, we watched videos, read articles, and discussed dance companies’ and their community work.

Tuesdays and Thursdays were dedicated to learning contemporary dance principles and exploring compositional dance techniques.
SAMPLE LESSON PLAN

1. Answer introductory prompt, “Discuss how dance is affected when paired with music or speaking.”

2. Practice set movement series repeated each class that brings awareness to weight shift and warms body parts for safety
3. Learn dance sequences that move across the floor and explore principles of “head tail connection”

4. Try improvisational exercise in which students react to words like: free, shot, build, and dreams
SAMPLE LESSON PLAN CONT..

6. Work in groups to create dances that reflect upon the words in a poem by Langston Hughes

7. Perform dances for the class

8. Participate in discussion about dances and provide feedback to peers

Lola gives feedback to her peers about their dance performance
RESULTS

I learned how to research and conduct dance classes

Students demonstrated increased skill in foundations of contemporary dance such as weight shift and spinal articulation.

Students deepened critical analysis about dance as exhibited through verbal articulation.
FUTURE WORK

As a Columbus Foundation Fellow, I will work in the community to assist in facilitating art workshops with Central Ohio artists. As an artist teacher myself, I will develop movement practice and curriculum with social awareness and action.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thank you to Fort Hayes Metropolitan Education Center and Gaby Stefura for their participation, The Department of Dance, and Susan Hadley and Dr. Melayne White Dixon. This project was made possible by the Arts Undergraduate Research Scholarship from the Undergraduate Research Office and the Arts Initiative Barbara and Sheldon Pinchuk Community Outreach Grant.
Works Cited


Questions…