Critical Thinking:
Advancing Performing Arts Literacy

Dance/Creative Movement

Sample Analysis

Welcome to our presentation that examines critical thinking in the context of performing arts, specifically dance and creative movement, or critical thinking skills for advancing behavioral literacy. We will review a dance sample and use it to critically think about the behavior of people around us.

With this in mind I’ve selected an often viewed clip of 200 dancers in a Belgium train station.

 SOUND OF MUSIC | CENTRAL STATION ANTWERP (BELGIUM) ON YOUTUBE.COM AT http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7EYAuzLI9k&feature=related

Please note that you could select any performance of dance or movement, on or off stage, and proceed with through the six levels of thinking: Remembering, Understanding, Applying, Analyzing, Evaluating, and Creating.
I am remembering the dancing and its greatest impression on me. This impression has become my theme. I am now restating it differently which will begin the advancement of my critical thinking.

In this entry I relate a lived, historical experience that lends authenticity to my understanding and comprehension of our theme. I refer back to the video clip in a manner that assists in giving my writing cohesion, but also testing out my theme.

In applying my theme I imagine working for a large corporation. I have been assigned to create cohesion among diverse department in efforts to focus on a mission established by the corporation. I utilize dance and music to unite the membership. My chosen theme remains consistent within the first three levels of thinking.

Once again, analyzing will have me report what I am learning, and expanding my thinking.

We must now perform an evaluation of our thinking, that is, open it up for criticism from a family member, public role figure, community ideology. Again, we want to avoid self-centered thinking that only includes our personal perspective.

In creating I am attempting to put myself outside of my experience and formulate a new whole that offers new perspectives and new relationships among those perspectives.