Elements of Choreography

1. Intention: Successful communication of an idea

Concept may be narrative, abstract, based on development of movement vocabulary, exposition of visual conceit, or other exploration.

\_\_Excellent: clear development of an idea

\_\_Satisfactory: there are hints of an idea, but it is not fulfilled; some portions of the choreography do not support the idea, and may detract from it

\_\_Unsatisfactory: no concept can be identified, or there are major problems in its development, or too many ideas vie with one another

1. Form: Structural integrity

Although there are many valid approaches to structuring a creative work, including chance (i.e., Cunningham), student should be able to describe and defend the structural outcome. From the beginning, development, and resolution, there should be some sense of “rightness” of what follows. Transitions, high points, paths—all contribute. Conscious choice to break the rules can also create structural integrity.

\_\_Excellent: Clear structure, good development throughout that is well constructed and serves the piece

\_\_Satisfactory: There may be some problems in the development, in transitions, resolutions, but in general some structure is evident

\_\_Unsatisfactory: form is not apparent or fails to support the overall concept

1. Movement Invention: Innovative movement vocabulary employed in service to the work

\_\_Excellent: the movement vocabulary developed is original, engaging and integrated into the artistic message effectively

\_\_Satisfactory: the movement vocabulary demonstrates thoughtful application to the artistic concept, but is not particularly original

\_\_Unsatisfactory: the movement vocabulary is drawn primarily from generic classroom phrases, and/or is entirely irrelevant to the work

1. Risk-taking: Art-making is risk taking. How is this work new? How does it stretch you as an artist?

\_\_\_Excellent: choreographer presented significantly original work

\_\_\_Satisfactory: choreographer stepped out of their personal comfort zone, tried something new, whether it succeeded or not

\_\_\_Unsatisfactory: choreographer relied on conventions or past work

1. Successful matching/directing cast to needs of the piece

\_\_Excellent: Dancers are well rehearsed and directed, such that they enhance the dance

\_\_Satisfactory: Dancers may not be able to execute the choreography perfectly, but they do not detract from communication of the choreographic message

\_\_Unsatisfactory: The dancers are not able to fulfill their roles, significantly detracting from the choreographer’s goals.