2014-2015 Annual Assessment Report: Theatre and Dance

FOR GRADUATE AND CREDENTIAL PROGRAMS: THIS TEMPLATE REFERS TO SAC STATE BACCALAUREATE LEARNING GOALS. PLEASE IGNORE THESE REFERENCES IN YOUR REPORT. **Question 1: Program Learning Outcomes** Q1.3. Are your PLOs closely aligned with the mission of the university? Q1.1. Which of the following Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) and Sac State Baccalaureate Learning ☐ 2. No Goals (BLGs) did you assess in 2014-2015? [Check all ☐ 3. Don't know that apply] 1. Critical thinking 2. Information literacy Q1.4. Is your program externally accredited (other than through WASC)? 3. Written communication | 1. Yes 4. Oral communication 2. No (Go to **Q1.5**) 5. Quantitative literacy 3. Don't know (Go to **Q1.5**) 6. Inquiry and analysis 7. Creative thinking Q1.4.1. If the answer to Q1.4 is yes, are your PLOs closely aligned with 8. Reading the mission/goals/outcomes of the accreditation agency? 9. Team work 1. Yes 10 Problem solving 2. No 11. Civic knowledge and engagement 3. Don't know 12. Intercultural knowledge and competency 13. Ethical reasoning Q1.5. Did your program use the Degree Qualification Profile (DQP) to 14. Foundations and skills for lifelong learning develop your PLO(s)? 15. Global learning 1. Yes 16. Integrative and applied learning 2. No, but I know what the DQP is. 17. Overall competencies for GE Knowledge 3. No, I don't know what the DQP is. 18. Overall competencies in the major/discipline 4. Don't know 19. Other, specify any PLOs that were assessed in 2014-2015 but not included above: Q1.6. Did you use action verbs to make each PLO measurable (See a. Analyze performance texts/compositions in relationship Attachment I)? to specific contexts. 🛛 1. Yes b. 2. No c. 3. Don't know Q1.2. Please provide more detailed background information about EACH PLO you checked above and Q1.2.1. Do you have other information such as how your specific PLOs were explicitly linked to the Sac State BLGs: rubrics for your PLOs? 1. Yes, for all PLOs This year, the Department of Theatre and Dance assessed student writing using an adaptation of the 2. Yes, but for some Written Communication VALUE Rubric and PLO #3: Students will be able to analyze performance **PLOs** texts/compositions in relationship to specific context. For theatre, this PLO specifically means that 3. No rubrics for PLOs "Students will be able to analyze, that is compare and contrast, the genre, structure, form, and content 4. N/A, other (please of diverse playwrights and performance artists (directors, actors, designers, etc.) in relationship to specify): specific global, social, cultural, and historical contexts." For dance, this PLO specifically means, "Students will be able to analyze the structure, form, and conceptual frameworks of diverse choreographers, dance techniques, dancers, and designers in relationship to specific global, social, cultural, and historical contexts." Both writing and PLO#3 are linked explicitly to the "Intellectual and Practical Skills" BLG, for in assessing writing and text/composition analysis, we are evaluating students' analysis, critical, written, and quantitative literacy skills. Furthermore, we are evaluating these skills of graduating seniors in required upper-division courses. At this point, the students should have mastered the skills in the theatre/dance

and across other disciplines.

In questions 2 through 5, report in detail on ONE PLO that you assessed in 2014-2015 **Question 2: Standard of Performance for the selected PLO** Q 2.1. Specify one PLO here as an example to illustrate how you conducted Q2.2. Has the program developed or assessment (be sure you checked the correct box for this PLO in Q1.1): adopted explicit standards of performance Written communication for this PLO? 1. Yes 3. Don't know 4. N/A Q2.3. Please provide the rubric(s) and standard of performance that you have developed for this PLO here or in the appendix: [Word See Appendix for Theatre and Dance Writing Rubric adapted from AACU Written Communication VALUE Rubric. The department has not adopted explicit standards of performance for this PLO. Since this is our first time assessing these PLOs, we are using this vear to determine our baseline. **Q2.4.** Please indicate the category in which the selected PLO falls into. 1. Critical thinking 2. Information literacy 3. Written communication 4. Oral communication 5. Quantitative literacy 6. Inquiry and analysis 7. Creative thinking 8. Reading 9. Team work 10. Problem solving 11. Civic knowledge and engagement 12. Intercultural knowledge and competency 13. Ethical reasoning 14. Foundations and skills for lifelong learning 15. Global learning 16. Integrative and applied learning 17. Overall competencies for GE Knowledge 18. Overall competencies in the major/discipline 19. Other PLO. Specify: Analyze performance texts/compositions in relationship to specific contexts. Please indicate where you have published the PLO, the standard of performance, and Q2.5 Q2.6 Q2.7 the rubric that measures the PLO: Standards of Performance Rubrics 1. In **SOME** course syllabi/assignments in the program that address the PLO 1. 2. 3. 🔀 2. In ALL course syllabi/assignments in the program that address the PLO 1. 2. 3. 3. In the student handbook/advising handbook 1. 2. 3. 4. In the university catalogue 1. 2. 3. 5. On the academic unit website or in newsletters 1. 2. 3. 6. In the assessment or program review reports, plans, resources or activities 2. 3. 1. 7. In new course proposal forms in the department/college/university 3. 1. 2. 8. In the department/college/university's strategic plans and other planning documents 1. 2. 3. 9. In the department/college/university's budget plans and other resource allocation documents 3. 1. 2.

10. Other, specify. I	neatre and Dance PLOS are	e also avallable in the main office and distribute	ed to faculty at the beginning of each semester.
	Question 3: D	ata Collection Methods ar	nd Evaluation of
	Da	ta Quality for the Selected	<u> PLO</u>
Q3.1. Was assessme 1. Yes 2. No (Skip to Q6) 3. Don't know (S 4. N/A (Skip to Q6)	kip to Q6)	ted for the selected PLO in 2014-2015?	Q3.2. If yes, was the data scored/evaluated for this PLO in 2014-2015? 1. Yes 2. No (Skip to Q6) 3. Don't know (Skip to Q6) 4. N/A (Skip to Q6)
Q3.1A. How many assessment tools/methods/m easures in total did you use to assess this PLO?	course(s) or by what m The Department of Theat majors in THEA 170. Afric theatre program. The de majors in DNCE 150. Dan were removed from both	can American Theatre and Culture, a required, volument also collected 4 critique papers (50% ce Theory and Criticism, a required upper-divisusets of papers, and the papers were distribute	t II)? [Word limit: 300] mpling of seniors) written by graduating theatre
		easures (key assignments, pro	jects, portfolios)
assess this PLO? 1. Yes 2. No (Go to Q3.7 3. Don't know (G	o to Q3.7) th the direct measure yo HEA 170 and DNCE 150 Pap	er Assignments.	Q3.3.1. Which of the following direct measures were used? [Check all that apply] ☐ 1. Capstone projects (including theses, senior theses), courses, or experiences ☑ 2. Key assignments from required classes in the program ☐ 3. Key assignments from elective classes ☐ 4. Classroom based performance assessments such as simulations, comprehensive exams, critiques ☐ 5. External performance assessments such as internships or other community based projects ☐ 6. E-Portfolios ☐ 7. Other portfolios ☐ 8. Other measure. Specify:
1. No rubric is us 2. Used rubric de 3. Used rubric de 4. Used rubric pi 5. The VALUE ru 6. Modified VAL 7. Used other m Q3.4.1. Was the dire	eveloped/modified by a lot-tested and refined b bric(s) UE rubric(s) eans. Specify: ect measure (e.g. etc.) aligned directly	ence (Go to Q3.4.3) ne faculty who teaches the class group of faculty	Q3.4.3. Was the rubric aligned directly and explicitly with the PLO? 1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't know 4. N/A

Q3.5. How many faculty members participated in planning the assessment data collection of the selected PLO? 2 Q3.6. How did you select the sample of student work [papers, projects, portfolios, etc.]?	Q3.5.1. If the data was evaluated by multiple scorers, was there a norming process (a procedure to make sure everyone was scoring similarly)? 1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't know Q3.6.1. How did you decide how many samples of student work				
The papers were all written by the graduating seniors in each class.	to review? We reviewed all stu	dent work by gra	duating seniors in each class.		
Q3.6.2. How many students were in the class or program? There were 32 students in THEA 170 (18 theatre majors and 14 GE students). There were 12 students in DNCE 150, all of whom were dance majors.	Q3.6.3. How many student work did v 14 total	•	Q3.6.4. Was the sample size of student work for the direct measure adequate? ☑ 1. Yes ☐ 2. No ☐ 3. Don't know		
Q3B: Indirect Measures (surveys	s, focus group	s, interviev	vs, etc.)		
Q3.7. Were indirect measures used to assess the PLO? 1. Yes 2. No (Skip to Q3.8) Q3.7.2 If surveys were used, how was the sample size decided?	[Check all that all 1. National st 2. University 3. College/De 4. Alumni sur 5. Employer s	student surveys (e.g., NSSE) y conducted student surveys (e.g. OIR) Department/program student surveys urveys, focus groups, or interviews surveys, focus groups, or interviews board surveys, focus groups, or interviews			
Q3.7.3. If surveys were used, briefly specify how you selected your sample.	Q3.7.4. If surveys	s were used, wl	nat was the response rate?		
Q3C: Other Measures (external l	benchmarking	g, licensing	exams,		
standardized	d tests, etc.)				
Q3.8. Were external benchmarking data such as licensing exams or tests used to assess the PLO? 1. Yes 2. No (Go to Q3.8.2)	r standardized	used? 1. National state/pi 2. Genera (e.g., CL 3. Other s	n of the following measures was all disciplinary exams or rofessional licensure exams I knowledge and skills measures A, CAAP, ETS PP, etc.) tandardized knowledge and ms (e.g., ETS, GRE, etc.) specify:		
Q3.8.2. Were other measures used to assess the PLO? 1. Yes 2. No (Go to Q3.9) 3. Don't know (Go to Q3.9)			er measures were used, please		

				Q3D): Ali	gnm	ent (and	Qual	lity						
Q3.9. Did the data, including the direct measures, from all the different assessment tools/measures/methods directly align with the PLO? 1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't know					Q3.9.1. Were ALL the assessment tools/measures/methods that were used good measures for the PLO? 1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't know											
	С	ues	tion	4: [Data	ı, Fii	ndin	gs a	nd (Con	clusi	ions	3			
Question 4: Data, Findings and Conclusions Q4.1. Please provide simple tables and/or graphs to summarize the assessment data, findings, and conclusions: (see Attachment III) [Word limit: 600 for selected PLO]																
Theatre and Dance Writing A	ssessm	ent Dat	ta]	
						SENIOF							SENIORS			
Context/Purpose	1*	3.5	4	4.5	5 2.5	6	7 4.5	8 5	9 5	10 4.5	11	12	13	14* 4	3.68	74%
Content Development	3	3.5	3	4.5	2.5	2.5	4.5	4.5	5	4.5	3	3	3	4	3.57	71%
Sources/Evidence	3	3	4.5	4	3.5	2.5	3.5	5	4.5	3.5	2.5	2	2	2	3.25	65%
Grammar/Editing	2	3.5	3.5	3.5	1	2	4	5	4	3.5	2.5	1	2.5	4	3	60%
TOTAL SCORE	11	13.5	15	16.5	9.5	10	16	19.5	18.5	16	11	8	10.5	14	13.5	68%
Development, Sources/Evidence, and Grammar/Editing. Overall, students scored slightly above average (68%) in their writing. They are doing best in Context/Purpose, i.e. writing for an academic audience, for students averaged 74% in this area. They are doing poorest in the area of Grammar/Editing, for students averaged 60% in this area. Students do not do a good job of editing and proofreading their papers; they appear to submit first drafts. In general, students are producing slightly above average work in Content Development (71%) and Sources/Evidence (65%), which means most of them know how to develop an argument and use outside sources to prove it. Q4.2. Are students doing well and meeting program standard? If not, how will the program work to improve student performance of the selected PLO? Since this is the first time Theatre and Dance has assessed writing, we did not set a program standard. Our discussion of the data/evidence in relationship to our experiences grading other writing assignments across classes, however, reveals that the data matches our expectations: Theatre and Dance majors are average academic writers.																
 The department certainly wants our students to be above average academic writers, and we will work to improve student writing in the following ways: Provide students with the writing rubric in advance for all classes. Provide students with samples of excellent student writing for select assignments in all classes. Grade papers using the rubric and emphasize how students can improve their writing with each assignment using the rubric. When we assess student writing next year, we hope students will average 3.5 (70%) or higher in each area. 																
Q4.3. For selected PLO, th 1. Exceeded expectation 2. Met expectation/sta	n/stan	-	forma	nce:												

 ☐ 3. Partially met expectation/standard ☐ 4. Did not meet expectation/standard ☑ 5. No expectation or standard has been specified ☐ 6. Don't know 							
Question 5: Use of Asse	essme	ent [Data	a (Closing	the Lo	ор)	
Q5.1. As a result of the assessment effort in 2014-2015 and based on the prior feedback from OAPA, do you anticipate making any changes for your program (e.g., course structure, course content, or modification of PLOs)?	progradescrip [Word In the Department of the Dep	m as a otion o limit: 30 partme by making. We also m. We we would be seen as a seen where we will be seen as a seen	resuling f how on the of The one of the of the one of t	t of your asses you plan to a rds] heatre and Dan ne standard for e to develop a v	ssment of the ssess the impact of the simpact of the s	an to make in y is PLO. Include pact of these chake better use of ake better use of a scross all progree course for the these changes by .	a nanges. If the writing rams and dance
Q5.2. How have the assessment data from last year (2013	- 2014)	been u	sed so	o far? [Check a	ll that apply]		
		(1 Ve Mu	ry	(2) Quite a Bit	(3) Some	(4) Not at all	(8) N/A
1. Improving specific courses							
2. Modifying curriculum			<u> </u>				
3. Improving advising and mentoring							
4. Revising learning outcomes/goals							
5. Revising rubrics and/or expectations							
6. Developing/updating assessment plan							
7. Annual assessment reports							
8. Program review							
9. Prospective student and family information							
10. Alumni communication							
11. WASC accreditation (regional accreditation)							
12. Program accreditation							
13. External accountability reporting requirement		L					
14. Trustee/Governing Board deliberations							
15. Strategic planning							
16. Institutional benchmarking		L					
17. Academic policy development or modification		L					
18. Institutional Improvement		L	_				
19. Resource allocation and budgeting			_				
20. New faculty hiring			_				
21. Professional development for faculty and staff							
22. Recruitment of new students							
23. Other Specify:							

Q5.2.1. Please prov	vide a detailed e	ample of how yo	ou used the assess	ment data above.
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We used the 2013-2014 Assessment Data to make program and course changes to THEA 4. Script Analysis. First, we revised our curriculum and made THEA 4 an upper-division course with 2 lower-division prerequisites. THEA 4, now THEA 100, will serve as a gateway course to upper division courses. Students will also be introduced to the elements of performance in all lower-division courses, so as to have a better understanding of them in THEA 100 and beyond.

found that students were better able to assess multiple play texts in terms of Aristotle's elements of performance.
Additional Assessment Activities
Q6. Many academic units have collected assessment data on aspects of a program that are not related to PLOs (i.e., impacts of an advising center, etc.). If your program/academic unit has collected data on the program elements, please briefly report your results here. [Word limit: 300]
Not applicable.
Q7. What PLO(s) do you plan to assess next year?
1. Critical thinking
2. Information literacy
3. Written communication
4. Oral communication
5. Quantitative literacy
6. Inquiry and analysis
7. Creative thinking
☐ 8. Reading
☐ 9. Team work
10. Problem solving
11. Civic knowledge and engagement – local and global 12. Intercultural knowledge and competency
13. Ethical reasoning
13. Ethical reasoning 14. Foundations and skills for lifelong learning
15. Global learning
16. Integrative and applied learning
17. Overall competencies for GE Knowledge
18. Overall competencies in the major/discipline
19. Other, specify any PLOs not included above :
a. Evaluate live performance.
b.
c.

Q8. Have you attached any appendices? If y Appendix A: Theatre and Dance Writing Rubric Appendix B: THEA 170. African American Theatre Assignment	•				DNCE 150) Dance Th	neory and	Criticism	Dance (Critique
	Pro	gram	Info	rmatio	on					
P1. Program/Concentration Name(s): THEATRE BA DANCE BA		P2. Report Authors: Melinda Wilson Ramey in consultation with department faculty								
P3. Academic unit: Department, Program, or College: Department of Theatre and Dance P4. College: Arts and Letters										
P5. Fall 2014 enrollment for Academic unit (<u>Fact Book 2014</u> by the Office of Institutional 2012 enrollment: Theatre = 75; Dance = 28		P6. Program Type: [Select only one] ☐ 1. Undergraduate baccalaureate major ☐ 2. Credential ☐ 3. Master's degree ☐ 4. Doctorate (Ph.D./Ed.d) ☐ 5. Other. Please specify:								
Undergraduate Degree Program(s): P7. Number of undergraduate degree progrunit has: 2	ams the	academic	l l	ster Degr Number : 0	_		e progra	ms the ac	cademi	c unit
P7.1. List all the name(s): Theatre Arts; Dance			P8.	1. List all	the name	e(s):				
P7.2. How many concentrations appear on tundergraduate program? 0	the diploi	ma for thi	l l	2. How m		entration	ns appea	r on the o	diploma	a for this
P9.1. List all the names:	demic un	it has: 0	P10 has	ctorate Procession of the Contract of the Cont	r of docto	orate deg	ree prog	rams the	acade	mic unit
1. Before 2. 2007-08 3. 2008-09 4. 2009-10 4. 2009-10 6. 2011-12 6. 2011-12 6. 2011-12 6. 2011-13 7. 2012-13 7. 2012-13 6. 2011-12 6. 2011-12 6. 2011-12 6. 2011-12 6. 2011-12 6. 2011-12 6. 2011-13 7. 2012-13 7							10. No formal plan			
P11. Developed										
P12. Last updated Our new theatre curriculum was just approved this year, and we are revising our dance curriculum during the 2014-2015 AY. We will update our formal assessment plans once both new curriculum are approved.										

	1.	2.	3.
	Yes	No	Don't
			Know
P13. Have you developed a curriculum map for this program?		\boxtimes	
P14. Has the program indicated explicitly where the assessment of student learning occurs in the curriculum?	\boxtimes		
P15. Does the program have any capstone class? The Dance program does, the Theatre program will have one beginning spring 2017.	\boxtimes	\boxtimes	
P16. Does the program have ANY capstone project? The Dance program does, the Theatre program will have one beginning spring 2017.	\boxtimes	\boxtimes	

Assessing Other Program Learning Outcomes (Optional)

If your program assessed PLOs not reported above, please summarize your assessment activities in the table below. If you completed part of the assessment process, but not the full process (for example, you revised a PLO and developed a new rubric for measuring it), then put N/A in any boxes that do not apply.

Report Assessment Activities on Additional PLOs Here

Q1: Program Learning Outcome (PLO) Q2: Standard of Performance/ Target [Expectation

Q3: Methods/ Measures (Assignments) Q4: Data/Findings/ Conclusions Q5: Use of Assessment Data/ Closing the Loop

Theatre and Dance PLO#3:

Analyze performance texts/compositions in relationship to specific contexts.

No standard of performance predetermined

Although all classes explore this PLO whether in paper or another assignment, the department specifically collected papers THEA 170 (10 papers) and DNCE 150 (4 papers) and scored this PLO while also scoring student writing.

Student scores, on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) ranged from 2 to 5 and average 3.43 (69%). This means that, on average, students are performing slightly above average in their ability to analyze texts/compositions.

As with writing, we will make the rubric for this PLO available in advance to all students. We will also incorporate assignments, whether papers or projects, that address this PLO into all classes. In the future, we hope all students score 3.5 or better on this PLO.



WRITING RUBRIC

*Adapted from AACU Written Communication VALUE Rubric

	EXCELLENT 5	GOOD	AVERAGE 3	FAIR 2	POOR 1
CONTEXT and PURPOSE Audience, purpose, and circumstances surrounding writing task(s).	Demonstrates a thorough understanding of context, audience, and purpose that is responsive to the assigned task(s) and focuses all elements of the work.	Demonstrates adequate consideration of context, audience, and purpose and a clear focus on the assigned task(s) (e.g., the task aligns with audience, purpose, and context).	Demonstrates consideration of context, audience, and purpose and s o m e focus on the assigned task(s) (e.g., the task aligns with audience, purpose, and context).	Demonstrates awareness of context, audience, purpose, and to the assigned tasks(s) (e.g., begins to show awareness of audience's perceptions and assumptions).	Demonstrates minimal attention to context, audience, purpose, and to the assigned tasks(s) (e.g., expectation of instructor or self as audience).
CONTENT DEVELOPMENT Development of argument.	Uses appropriate, relevant, and compelling content to illustrate mastery of the subject, conveying the writer's understanding, and shaping the entire work.	Uses appropriate, relevant, and compelling content to explore ideas within the context of the discipline and shape the entire work.	Uses appropriate and relevant content to explore ideas within the context of the discipline and shape the most of the work.	Uses appropriate content to develop and explore ideas through some of the work.	Uses appropriate and relevant content to develop simple ideas in some parts of the work.
ANALYSIS OF THEATRE/DRAMA: Analyze performance texts in relationship to specific contexts.	Demonstrates excellent incorporation of textual analysis. Compares and contrasts the genre, structure, form, and content of diverse playwrights and/or performance artists (directors, actors, designers, etc.) in relationship to specific global, social, cultural, and/or historical contexts in a compelling way throughout the writing.	Demonstrates good incorporation of textual analysis. Compares and contrasts the genre, structure, form, and content of diverse playwrights and/or performance artists (directors, actors, designers, etc.) in relationship to specific global, social, cultural, and/or historical contexts in an interesting way through majority of the writing.	Demonstrates average incorporation of textual analysis. Compares and contrasts the genre, structure, form, and content of diverse playwrights and/or performance artists (directors, actors, designers, etc.) in relationship to specific global, social, cultural, and/or historical contexts through most of the writing.	Demonstrates fair incorporation of textual analysis. Attempts to compare and contrast the genre, structure, form, and content of diverse playwrights and/or performance artists (directors, actors, designers, etc.) in relationship to specific global, social, cultural, and/or historical contexts in some of the writing.	Demonstration of textual analysis is weak. Poorly compares and contrasts the genre, structure, form, and content of diverse playwrights and/or performance artists (directors, actors, designers, etc.) in relationship to specific global, social, cultural, and/or historical contexts throughout the writing.
ANALYSIS OF DANCE: Analyze compositions in relationship to specific contexts.	Demonstrates excellent incorporation of composition analysis. Discusses the structure, form, and/or conceptual frameworks of diverse choreographers, dance techniques, dancers, and/or designers in relationship to specific global, social, cultural, and/or historical contexts in a compelling way throughout the writing.	Demonstrates good incorporation of composition analysis. Discusses the structure, form, and/or conceptual frameworks of diverse choreographers, dance techniques, dancers, and/or designers in relationship to specific global, social, cultural, and/or historical contexts in an interesting way through majority of the writing.	Demonstrates average incorporation of composition analysis. Discusses the structure, form, and/or conceptual frameworks of diverse choreographers, dance techniques, dancers, and/or designers in relationship to specific global, social, cultural, and/or historical contexts through most of the writing.	Demonstrates fair incorporation of composition analysis. Discusses the structure, form, and/or conceptual frameworks of diverse choreographers, dance techniques, dancers, and/or designers in relationship to specific global, social, cultural, and/or historical contexts in some of the writing.	Demonstrates of composition analysis is weak. Poorly discusses the structure, form, and conceptual frameworks of diverse choreographers, dance techniques, dancers, and designers in relationship to specific global, social, cultural, and/or historical contexts in an interesting way throughout the writing.
SOURCES AND EVIDENCE	Demonstrates skillful use of high-quality, credible, relevant sources to develop ideas that are appropriate for the discipline and genre of the writing.	Demonstrates consistent use of credible, relevant sources to support ideas that are situated within the discipline and genre of the writing.	Demonstrates some use of credible and/or relevant sources to support ideas that are appropriate for the discipline and genre of the writing.	Demonstrates an attempt to use credible and/or relevant sources to support ideas that are appropriate for the discipline and genre of the writing.	Demonstrates an attempt to use sources to support ideas in the writing.
GRAMMAR AND EDITING. Control of Syntax and Mechanics	Uses graceful language that skillfully communicates meaning to readers with clarity and fluency, and is virtually error-free.	Uses straightforward language that generally conveys meaning to readers. The language in the portfolio has few errors.	Uses general language that conveys clear meaning to the reader. The language includes some errors.	Uses language that generally conveys meaning to readers with clarity, although writing may include many errors.	Uses language that sometimes impedes meaning because of errors in usage.

APPENDIX B

Final Paper Assignment for THEA 170. African American Theatre and Culture (Fall 2014)

Final papers <u>must</u>:

- be 6-8 pages in length, double-spaced, and use a 12 pt. font and 1-inch margins;
- use MLA Style citations and formatting;
- incorporate textual evidence from the plays along with a minimum of three *scholarly* sources to support your argument.

Assignment:

Explore at least two comparable aspects of *Dreamscape* and one other African American play studied this semester to explain how both plays constitute "black plays." In other words, what makes *Dreamscape* and one other play a "black play"?

Dance Critique Guidelines/Requirements for DNCE 150. Dance Theory and Criticism (Fall 2014)

Please use third person and write these the way a review in a newspaper would be written.

- Each critique must be at least 2-3 pages in length. Essay form. Attach ticket stub or show ticket stub to instructor.
- You can use the reviews you have collected as inspiration.
- Include your name, class number and section, and the professor's name. Give the critique a title.
- All critiques are due within one week after viewing the event/concert.
- Include the following content (required).

Introduction:

Performing group/company: Give the date, location, and name of the event. If available, include a brief background/history or mission of the group. Location: Where does the performance take place-what kind of performance space, etc. Clarify Topic choice (in your thesis statement/topic sentence).

The Meat:

Some ideas for the body of the critique/ review-

Students can choose the separate topics in any order, allowing the performance/event to help students decide which question(s) are most appropriate (based on individual response).

For each performance, choose at least two dances (or specific sections) from each event and discuss the following:

- A. What are the major historical/cultural influences on these particular dances? Where do you see those influences in the actual dances? What genres do they fit into (modern, ballet, jazz, traditional, etc.)? How does what you see relate to the history of the dance style?
- B. Compare and contrast the dances. Discuss the choreographic elements of the dance. Discuss use of space and overall design. Discuss time and rhythm (relationship to music may be embedded in this element.) Discuss use of movement qualities and dynamics. Discuss production elements (lights, costumes, and music).

C. Analyze the dances. What MEANING did the dance(s) have? Consider title. How did you arrive at that conclusion? Give concrete examples.

Conclusion: Ideas-

How was the overall event? What were your expectations prior to attending the show and did the concert meet them? Why or why not?

HELPFUL HINTS

Form: Remember to emphasize titles of performances, songs, and dances. Quotation marks, italics, and/or underlining usually are appropriate. Be consistent!

Vocabulary: Dance "concert" or "event" works better than dance "recital." When referring to dance, use "work" or "piece" instead of "number," "act," or "scene."

Plot Driven Performances: If the dance is in the context of a musical, "number" or "song" may work just fine. Avoid heavy plot synopsis. *Concentrate on the dance/movement*.

Language/Tone: Avoid informal language unless you have a very specific reason related to tone or mood of the paper. Remember that this is an academic exercise. Be specific. Avoid general descriptors such as "good/bad," "interesting/boring," and "fun/dull." Consider the following from Tom Robbins' Skinny Legs and All:

"When a person says a movie is 'neat,' does he mean that it's funny or tragic or thrilling or romantic, does he mean that the cinematography is beautiful, the acting heartfelt, the script intelligent, the direction deft, or the leading lady has cleavage to die for? Slang possesses an economy, an immediacy that's attractive, all right, but it devalues experience by standardizing and fuzzing it."