

SYDNEY NORTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS DANCE
SOME CHOREOGRAPHIC ADVICE FOR TEACHERS



1. **Have a clear concept/intent – what you want your audience to think and/or imagine and/or feel as a result of viewing your dance.**
2. **Don't be afraid to apply your own interpretation or personal style (flavor, identity or twist) to your dance.**
3. **Consider the structure of your dance – fundamentally, that it has a beginning, a middle and an end and that these “parts” have variation and contrast.**
4. **Always consider the “integrity” of your dance ie that all its parts – intent/music/costume/movement/style and structure - belong with each other.**
5. **Consider the full, rich and interesting array of music that is available for you to use for your dance. Do not necessarily be tied to what is currently popular or receiving high rotation airplay.**
6. **Choose your music with a full understanding that its lyrics and associated music video(s) must be completely and unambiguously appropriate for your students and their audiences.**
7. **Consider your costume in terms of it contributing to your concept/intent and/or characters in your dance and/or the colour palette or visual composition of your stage space.**
8. **Consider your costume in terms of its functionality and appropriateness for all young bodies under stage lighting. Students must be comfortable wearing it in terms of its design and material – audience members must be comfortable viewing it from close quarters, under stage lighting.**
9. **In your choreography, maximize the use of aspects of space, time and dynamics.**
10. **Consider the degree of difficulty of the movement in relation to students' skill levels and their ability to execute it properly. Better to include less difficult movement done well, than more difficult movement done poorly.**
11. **Simple movements can be arranged in more complex ways throughout the group to enhance the “movement picture”.**

- 12. Observe the guidelines on safe dance practice and avoid contra-indicated (unsafe) movement. [Refer to Safe Dance Practice](#)**
- 13. Do not “leave the finish until the finish” – Consider carefully the last image your audience will see and how it contributes to your intent and remember there are many ways to end a dance other than a tableau.**
- 14. Well-executed movement requires practice or rehearsal – some more complex or fast movement needs to be “broken down” and/or practiced slowly, initially.**
- 15. Enjoy the creative process - do not be afraid to experiment with all aspects of the dance and do not worry if that experimentation doesn't work - it will lead to working out what is right.**