## Performing Arts Writing Tips Sheet

| **AUDIENCE** | ● Professor, employers, grant boards, peers, self  
  ● Informed or uninformed |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| **PURPOSE** | ● Depends on the type of writing  
  ● Understand the background and history of a performance piece  
  ● Apply previously learned knowledge to performance(s)  
  ● Critique a performance without simply liking or disliking  
  ● Present an idea and persuade the audience to support it  
  ● Reflect on one’s own work, progress, and thoughts |
| **TONE/VOICE** | ● Maintain an academic or formal tone when writing research essays, grants, essays synthesizing elements, and critiques.  
  ● Self-reflections are meant more for the students than the professors, allowing students to write about themselves and their own work. This means that the tone, while not entirely informal, is more relaxed in these assignments.  
  ● The performing arts are used to express emotion, so descriptive language and emotional interpretations are acceptable in formal and informal writing.  
    ○ Example: “The dancer’s hand resembled a white dove as she pointed upward, signifying a sense of hope.” |
| **STRUCTURE** | ● Thesis driven, with exception of self-reflection assignments  
  ● Title page if requested  
  ● Length varies  
  ● Ideas must proceed logically  
  ● Proper spelling, grammar and punctuation used unless quoting from a performance or text that uses colloquial language |
| **RESEARCH/SOURCES** | ● Synthesis of information and terms from in-class texts  
  ● For outside sources, use newspapers, peer reviewed journals, and reference books |
| **SOURCE INTEGRATION** | ● Introduce and analyze source material. Analysis may be personal interpretations dependent on emotion as long as it is partially supported by materials  
  ● Block quotes are double-spaced but rare  
  ● Source material may include sound, movement, lighting, costumes, and sets as well as text materials. |
| **STYLE/CITATION** | ● MLA style  
  ● Double-spaced lines  
  ● Pages numbered in upper-right hand corner (last name #)  
  ● Works Cited  
  ● In-text citations: use parentheses, footnotes rare  
  ● Works cited comes last, as a separate page |
| **WRITING RESOURCES** | ● *The Little, Brown Compact Handbook, 7th Ed.*, Aaron. |
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