Black Masking: Ownership and Representation | Student Dance Brief

9–12 | Louisiana Dance & Movement Lab | research-driven movement dramaturgy | 2–4 sessions of 35–60 minutes

Your movement challenge

Conduct a representation audit and compose a piece about cultural stewardship without reproducing community-specific ceremonial material

What to investigate

New Orleans Black masking traditions and cultural sovereignty

Technical focus

research-driven movement dramaturgy

Before you dance

01. Name one movement you observe in a credited source and one thing you do not yet know.
02. Show a safe four-count baseline phrase.
03. Experiment with three different movement qualities or spatial directions.

Create and improve

01. Plan a short original sequence with a beginning, a change, and an ending.
02. Apply research-driven movement dramaturgy and rehearse the movement challenge.
03. Request one observation and one question from a peer, then make one significant change.

Turn in

Movement score or sketch; three trials; final performance/filmed excerpt/accessible notation; source credit; annotated revision; reflection.

Reflect

01. How did research-driven movement dramaturgy improve from beginning to end?
02. Who is credited for the tradition?
03. Which movement is your own invention?
04. How did you make choices safe and inclusive?

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