

This project was a fairly new experience for me because I haven't choreographed a lot before and I've only choreographed once without music. It was definitely a challenge, but I think that our group was much more successful than we thought we would be. When we were first presented with the project, we had no clue where to begin. I remember thinking, "oh my gosh, how are we ever going to be able to do this?" It wasn't until I was willing to go out of my comfort zone that I could come up with anything, and that's when we came up with our first couple of eight counts of our dance. Initially, we thought that they would be in the middle and that we would start with solos, but once we decided what our story was, we agreed that it would help our story more if we started all together.

We then presented our projects and got our first critiques, which was when we realized that we needed to use more space and more variety. We went back to the drawing board and decided that we were just going to continually add on to our piece. During this time, we gradually made small changes to the beginning of our piece, which made a world of a difference. Looking back at our piece in the beginning and watching our final product, it's crazy to think how changes that we thought were really small could make such a dramatic affect. For example, we changed our fouetté line to be horizontal instead of vertical and then ended with different levels because it fit with the music better. That small change made the piece look so much better though. Seeing how the small changes made such an impact was a really rewarding part of this process.

The most exciting part of the project was getting to see our piece completed with music and costuming. We found music that had dynamic changes and ripples exactly where they should be. That was really cool to us because we didn't give any thought to the music's composition and how it would affect our choreography. The costumes also helped to make the piece look finished. We wanted the same costumes, but in different colors because we wanted to show that although we are all different, we fit together perfectly and belong together. Just like a mosaic is made up of different tiles that are different shapes and colors, our dance was made up of different dancers forming a community. We had focused our whole dance on us being all together, so we wanted to make sure that the audience understood that from our costumes too. I also wish we had gotten to do our piece on the stage so that we could have different lighting features to truly finalized the piece, but I liked performing in the studio. It's incredibly rewarding to see how well our piece turned out with the costumes and music. I never realized how much those elements changed a piece, but they do.

This project was such a huge learning experience for me. I worked on listening to other people and not being the main person in charge, which is often difficult for me because I'm very talkative. I also realized how much work it is to choreograph a piece and how hard it is to get all of the pieces together for one dance. I definitely appreciate my various dance teachers a lot more now after thinking about how many different dances I've been in that they've choreographed for me. This project turned into something that I really enjoyed, and I'm beyond proud of what my group created.