

During this process, we all worked really well together. We all had an equal say in our piece and what our story was. We had the same idea when we talked about our concept. That was really helpful because we had the same approach to the storyline and knew how to choreograph to best show that. We didn't establish a leader for a couple of reasons. One reason is that no one person in our group is more advanced than the others or should be put on a pedestal. Another reason is because we realized that we all can have more of a say if we have someone who wasn't the designated leader. Sometimes when there isn't a set leader in a group, I will naturally try to take charge because I know that I have a big personality and leadership is easy for me. For this project though, I made sure to step back and listen to others, even if it's not exactly what I thought it should be. This helped the piece turn out much better than we thought it could be. I was really proud of the ownership that we all took for this piece.

While watching performances, I made sure to be actively watching and analyzing the pieces. They were all very impressive, and I was really proud of how well my classmates did. Watching the different pieces evolve was the best part. As an audience member, it made me even more compelled to watch the pieces since I could see how each group applied their changes. I also made sure that when I voiced my opinions on the pieces, I gave advice that was constructive and also complimented the good parts of the pieces. In marching band, when we give corrections, we use a praise sandwich. We give our correction in a positive tone and give them a compliment before and after we say the correction. That way we start on a positive note, fix what needs to be fixed, and then we end on a positive note so that they don't get too hard on themselves. I tried to use this concept so that the dancers would not think that I was being too mean about their pieces because they really were all fantastic.

While I was performing, I made sure to be focused and in the moment. We had worked so hard on our piece, so I didn't want to mess up and let my group down. I also made sure to use facials so that the audience would understand that our dance was a celebration of the joys of being in a community. I was genuinely happy when I was dancing in my group, but then I was slightly somber when I was away from them, trying to show how being on my own was not all that I had hoped it would be. While dancing, I made sure to use my technique and hold my core so that I looked like I had danced before. Sometimes during improv or while doing my own choreography I forget that I also have to focus on my technic. During this piece however, I made sure to step toe-ball-heel, lead with my toes while standing up, and hold my core, especially while holding the T position for four counts. Overall though, I felt good about my performance and the whole process in general.