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Homework and Exam Presentations

Homework presentations are a key component of the course, and will be done in almost every class. These presentations give you the opportunity to solidify and demonstrate your knowledge and gain experience presenting information to a class.

Types of Homework Questions

Homework questions usually fall into one of two main categories: theory and teaching.

- **Theory:** These questions are the figure elements. Your Master Teacher will assign one or more elements of a figure to demonstrate (as Leader or Follower) in the next class.
- **Teaching:** There are several types of teaching questions you may be asked to present to the class.
 - *Dance History and Characteristics*
 - *Musical Information*
 - *How to Teach Topics:* Topics could include a Leader or Follower's frame (for a particular dance), compression and leverage, basic Cuban motion, CBM (contra body movement), etc.
 - *Teach Like a Pro Reading Assignment*
 - *Move Like a Champion Exercise*

How to Present Homework and Exam Presentations

In-class homework presentations (and exam presentations) are more than just saying the correct words. For theory presentations, all elements of the figure need to be shown correctly (including partner simulation, proper arm movements, dance positions, proper footwork, amount of turn, alignment, etc). And for teaching presentations, you'll need to present the material in a clear, organized manner. For exams, your overall "presentation" will affect your final score.

- **Presentation Guidelines**
 - Walk on and off the floor with grace, poise and professionalism.
 - Face the class, smile and make eye contact while clearly stating what figure, role and element you are presenting.
 - Do not rush or speak quickly...take your time, be calm, and speak with adequate vocal projection.
 - Present with confidence and clarity, demonstrating every element of the figure.
 - Maintain your composure. If you make a mistake during your presentation, don't panic, laugh or look at the Master Teacher for help; instead, graciously say "Excuse

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me, may I begin again?” Or if your brain has gone blank and/or you need a moment, ask “May I dance the figure by myself first?”

- Prepare, prepare, prepare! Practice your presentations at home for family members or friends, and/or with a fellow trainee.
- **Theory (Figure Elements)**
 - State the name of the figure. For example, “I am going to demonstrate the Slow Underarm Turn in Rumba.
 - Dance the figure with a partner in the role (Leader or Follower) you were assigned.
 - Thank your partner after the dance demonstration is finished.
 - State the role and element, and re-state the name of the figure. For example, “I am going to give the Follower’s amount of turn for the Slow Underarm Turn in Rumba, Figure 6.”
 - Present the figure step by step, stating the theory while demonstrating. (See “How to Present Figure Elements” later in this section for the correct speaking conventions for presenting each of the elements).
- **Informational and Teaching Topics**
 - *For Informational and Teaching Questions:* When teaching, you’ll need to know how to speak to your students conversationally, using simple terms. These teaching questions give you a chance to practice translating the highly technical information you are learning into everyday language.
 - ✓ State what information or teaching topic you will be presenting. For example, “I am going to give the history of Waltz.” Or, “I will be teaching basic Cuban motion.”
 - ✓ Present the information in a fun and engaging way, as if you were the teacher. Refer to the DVIDA manual, Trainee Handbook, Teach Like a Pro, or your notes from class.
 - *Teach Like a Pro Presentations*
 - ✓ State what chapter(s) (or section) of information you are presenting. For example, “I will be presenting a summary of the foot position element from Chapter 2 in Teach Like a Pro.”
 - ✓ Present a summary of the material you read including 3 key points for each topic.

- *Move Like a Champion Presentations*
 - ✓ State the name and purpose of the exercise.
 - ✓ If available, use the skeleton to describe the bones and joints involved in the exercise.
 - ✓ Teach the exercise to the class, including an example of where the exercise is used in dancing.