

AMERICAN

★ **Dance/Drill Team®** ★

BEGINNING CHOREOGRAPHY

by Debbie Byrd

- I. Choosing Music
 - A. Where to get music?
 - 1. Appropriate music for material
 - B. What type of music?
 - 1. Please audience MORE than performer
 - 2. Variety of tempo and style
 - 3. Any time limitations
 - 4. Having a quality recording or CD
- II. Charting Music
 - A. Steps to actually outlining music
 - 1. Label and locate
 - B. Listen to music for emphasis
 - 1. Tempo changes
 - 2. Music changes
 - 3. Music repeats
 - 4. Chorus
- III. Routine Introductions
 - A. "Eye catching" formations
 - 1. Holding counts/Half counts
 - 2. Dynamics
 - 3. Transitions
 - 4. Contagions or ripples
 - 5. Traditional Positions
- IV. Routine Endings
 - A. Build to the End - Dynamics
 - B. Create a visual lasting image
- V. Basic Dance Steps
 - A. Variations
 - B. Transitions



CHECKLIST FOR EVALUATING CHOREOGRAPHY

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1. Are the rhythm patterns and phrasing interesting?
2. Are there variations in dynamics or is it the same all the way through the dance?
3. Is there interesting use of space and travelling patterns?
4. Is there variation in level and direction of movements?
5. Is there repetition as well as variation?
6. Is there any overused, frequently seen movements and positions?
7. Are the dance sequences logically arranged or are they impossible to remember?

BEWARE OF CHOREOGRAPHY PITFALLS

1. Compromises that fill space with just any movement that really does not fit the rest of the choreography.
2. Too much, or not enough contrast.
3. Using the same stereotyped space patterns.
4. Movement beyond the performers ability.
5. Dance that goes on and on, long after it's point has been made.
6. Movement or design too small to be seen from where your audience may be seated.

RATING YOUR CHOREOGRAPHY

How to use the rating scale: If you feel you have successfully fulfilled each of the following components, place one point in the blank provided. After completing all the questions, add up the total number of points. Use the scale below to help you identify the overall effectiveness of your choreography. You can also identify the areas which need improvement.

10 pts. = A	5 pts. = C-
9 pts. = A-	4 pts. = D
8 pts. = B	3 pts. = D-
7 pts. = B-	2 pts. = F
6 pts. = C	1 pt. = F

- ___ Is the movement creative and contain some original movements in both design and concept?
- ___ Are the floor patterns and formations creative and clear in design and concept?
- ___ Is the total use of space well-balanced and interestingly developed?
- ___ Is there a logical arrangement of the structure (steps) of the dance?
- ___ Is there an appropriate relationship between the structural and rhythmic forms of the dance?
- ___ Is there unity and continuity with group as well as within the movement?
- ___ Is there thematic movement and, or a motif apparent and well developed?
- ___ Is the accompaniment (music) appropriate for the dance?
- ___ Was there adequate preparation apparent in the total development of the choreography and performance?
- ___ Was total interest of the choreography maintained throughout the dance?

___ TOTAL POINTS