

# **NEW VICTORY DANCE BRAINSTORMS**

**This chapter is filled with curricula brainstorms for educators, leaders and counselors to engage kids in various dance activities, and challenge them to create their own dance masterpieces!**





## WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

An artist's work is often inspired by the events unfolding within and outside of their personal sphere. At times, art is created to be observed and reflected upon. At other times, artists are moved to create art as a form of social or racial justice activism. Music and dance are no exception. For instance, Funk dance moves gave space for individuals to express themselves artistically in the 1970s, turning their art into activism. Have your kids work together in groups to create their very own social justice dance piece. In small groups, have your kids choose a topic or issue that is important to them and, using reliable sources on the internet, have them collect pictures and articles related to that topic.

**Note:** *These images will be used to help tell their story, so they should be varied and dynamic.* Work with your kids to brainstorm words and phrases that embody each image's themes and emotions. Combining the images with the words and phrases, have each group create a spoken word piece advocating for their group's cause. Then have each group create three tableaux (frozen pictures) that embody their spoken word piece. As a culminating event, turn these spoken word pieces into a living art gallery, step into the role of the docent of your kids' very own Museum of Social Justice. If everyone is on board, record these fascinating exhibits and share them with the world, helping to make your kids' voices and artistic works of art heard and seen.



## THE "MOVEMENT" MOVEMENT

Through art, allow kids to learn about and understand activism and examine their potential roles as activists! Have your kids embark on a visual research project in which their objective is to find photos of protests/activism either at different points throughout U.S. or World History, or seize this moment and focus on the Black Lives Matter movement. A few more examples they might choose from are: Vietnam or Iraq War protests, Women's Reproductive Rights and LGBTQ Rights.

Once each kid has found a photo they find compelling, have them research the events leading up to and surrounding that moment of protest or activism. Ask them to consider the political actions taken as a result of those protests, and what changes occurred for the larger population those protests served. Next, ask kids to choose one person in their photograph, put themselves in that person's shoes, become them and create a movement or dance piece inspired by their stance, posture, facial expression and position within the world of the photo.



## EXPLORING THE SCIENCE OF DANCE

Believe it or not, science and dance are linked! Work with your kids to explore the physics embedded in this art form! Lead activities, followed by reflective discussions, about such concepts as gravity, velocity, inertia, centripetal force and balance. For instance, without gravity, all of the dance moves featured in NEW VICTORY Dance simply wouldn't be possible. Then, use the experience of watching the show to inspire a research project about gravity and movement. To make this project more practical, have kids create a list of ways to test out these laws with their own movements or using objects found in their homes!



## ZOOMOGRAPHY: DANCE IN GALLERY VIEW

Tell your kids that the group is going to create a virtual dance video via Zoom, or any other video communication platform you choose! Your goal: to create a virtual dance piece featuring choreography by each of your kids! Tell kids that they are each to come up with a three-gesture or three-movement sequenced phrase. Guide and inspire them in their individual creation by asking: *What kind of music makes you want to dance? What is your favorite dance style? Who is your favorite performer? What kinds of moves would you like to feature?*

Work with your kids to decide what song you'd like to use. Then, give them time to adjust the moves they created to match the beat or mood of that song. Next, and here's the really challenging part, work with your kids to create the best sequence of everyone's dance moves, remembering to have kids choose small movements to do before and after their featured dance solo is in the spotlight! Once you've done this, it's time to record your virtual dance masterpiece. Finally, if everyone's on board, share your masterpiece with others like families, peers or the world and help your talented kids go viral!

**Tip:** Use this article, featuring Thao and the Get Down Stay Down's virtual video "Phenom," as inspiration! <https://bit.ly/381QW6q>