

## Abstract

In our society, priority does not lie in arts education ~~the arts are rarely noticed,~~ as kids ~~growing up don't really~~ do not acquire ~~have any~~ background knowledge ~~dealing with anything~~ about the history and practice of the arts. Funding cuts in education affect the arts in a negative fashion precluding the possibility of exposure and flourishing of future artists. In my childhood, I was introduced to dance only through my church. As school may soon take arts classes away from schools, that will not only decrease some knowledge that kids need but also allow kids to not see what their passion could be. Growing up I wasn't introduced to dance until my church introduced it to me. My liturgical dance practice remained my connection to the arts. Later, After I only saw I was exposed to ballet dance in the community through television where a ballet class was being broadcasted ~~which most dance companies teach students in from a local their studio.~~ I believe that students should be introduced to dance, both western concert and other cultural dance forms, as part of their education. ~~s other than the basics.~~ In my presentation, I argue that kids should be able to learn modern dance at a young age. My thesis focus particularly one in particular on Graham technique conceived and developed by modern dance pioneer, Martha Graham. ~~What~~ Martha Graham teaches dancers to question the norm. Her technique differs starkly from ballet and it is one way of acknowledging difference of personality, emotionality, and soulful movement. ~~introduces is how to be different and kids at a young age should understand that it's alright to go a different route and it's alright to not look like what you see in Ballet. Why keep kids away from other ways of dancing?~~ I question monolithic training in dance as kids get exposed to ballet only. Teaching one style will make them rigid and unable to develop versatility in performance. ~~use that one style to where when they learn a different style if they want to pursue dance it will be difficult to perform that dance.~~ Professor Kim Jones a professor at UNC ~~ne~~ Charlotte, as is a Professor for the former member of the Martha Graham technique company, where she talks ~~notes about the important of why~~ Graham technique is important. ~~,~~ She explains that Graham focuses on learning movement on the floor before trying it on your feet. In my thesis, I analyze Graham technique's philosophy in a developmental perspective. As that as a baby, one you learns how to crawl before getting your to balance and to stand up ~~is the same~~ concept. In a similar way, the dancer, ~~you~~ needs to be able to get comfortable with the movement on the floor. Once the body is acclimated to the sequence and ~~whie~~ gained a certain h ~~will make your body more comfort~~ level and able with the movement and stronger ~~stregnth,~~ then ~~make your~~ the dancer can make it way up to standing. Learning Graham technique consequently also helps in technique training in ballet. In conclusion Ballet is very helpful but there's kids that want to experience multiple dance styles, Ballet is a very technical dance style but Martha Graham technique can also help with some Ballet technique with strength, and learning Ballet as floorwork before trying it on Releve.