

# Class Plan Templates

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Using templates for organizing and planning your dance class can help you to prepare, reflect, and sharpen your teaching. Being convinced that the use of notation matters, we provide here three class plan templates. They offer different pathways of thinking and can provide an archive tool for your teaching. You are invited to download these templates as PDF for your own use.

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## Linear Class Plan

This class plan gives an overview of one single class or workshop with a lot of information, and it provides collection of exercises one after the other. Print out the *Class Material* template as often as needed.

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## Detailed Exercise Description

You can use the categories in this template to archive each exercise you have in your 'suitcase'.

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## Do You Have All Your Ducks in a Row?

A challenging but fruitful walk of 5 steps towards a coherent and satisfying dance didactics.<sup>1</sup>

As dance teachers, we often rely on inspiration while teaching. These five items are a way to ground your inspiration by using cognitive thought processes about your class. Before beginning, ask yourself:

1. Rationale (who and why?)
2. Aim (what for?)
3. Objective (what exactly?)
4. Exercises (how exactly?)
5. Long Term Direction (towards where?)

The five items, explained in the attached template, are good prompts to attain coherence and clarity within a class structure, especially when you realize that your intuition needs some grounding. They may also help your class participants get a sense of clarity and achievement as well. These are terms and concepts that I have adapted from my own practice. There is sometimes confusion between the terms *aim*, *objectives*, and *goals* and dictionaries are not very helpful for distinguishing between them. Nevertheless, I have found all these terms quite practicable within the frame of teaching dance and explain my use of these terms in the attached template.

Expect a learning curve while using this kind of class plan. If you take your time at the beginning to really understand each step, you will become quite adept and skillful after a while. You will also learn to identify strengths and weaknesses in your didactic approach. Once the concept of your class is clear, it will give you the assurance to deviate from your class plan, just as it helps to identify which parts of your class need to be changed and why. Maybe it turns out you have to adapt the aim, depending on the class feedback and needs. Maybe your objectives need to be broken down even more, or less. Maybe new exercises emerge as the class unfolds, and in dialogue with your students.

In the following please find the template with the explanations of these five items.

## NOTES

1. On [idocde.net](http://www.idocde.net) you can find a filled in example of Kerstin Kussmaul's template by Eszter Gál (<http://www.idocde.net/idsocs/1781> [01.03.2017]), and Pavle Heidler (<http://www.idocde.net/idsocs/1782> [01.03.2017]).