

Using MLA Format

Breakin' Tradition

General Purpose:	To inform.
Specific Purpose:	To inform my audience about breakdancing, it's history, moves, and prevalence today.
Central Idea:	Breakdancing can be traced back to the seventies, uses intricate choreography and moves, and continues to be prevalent in our culture today.
Organizational Type:	Topical order

I. Introduction

Attention Getter Have you ever heard of a coin drop, knee drop, or sweet drop? Have you heard of an airbaby, a chair freeze, a scorpion, or a hollowback? You may have never heard of these terms but you probably have heard of a form of dance called breakdancing.

Breakdancing is a form of dancing in which solo dancers perform acrobatics that involve touching various parts of the body such as the back or head to the ground (Breakdancing 1).

Thesis Breakdancing has been around for many years, has many different moves and techniques, and is still important today.

Reason to Listen It may not seem as though breakdancing is a part of our everyday lives but it is, it is in music videos, on Youtube, and it is a large part of the pop culture that we live today.

Preview of Points 1. The history of breakdancing can be traced back to the seventies.

2. Breakdancing has three main categories that many of its moves and choreography can fall under.
3. Breakdancing is still an important form of expression in our society today.

Speaker Credibility I am no breakdancer but I have spent much time researching this topic and I feel that I can give an accurate and interesting look at this form of dance.

Transition: Let us start by first discussing the history of breakdancing.

II. Body

- A. The history of breakdancing can be traced back more than three decades.
 1. The breakdancing that we know today emerged from the Bronx in the 1970's.
 - a. Those who perform this style of dance are called 'b-boys' or breakers.
 - i. The term 'b-boy' or breaker comes not from the dance or acrobatic movements but from the breaks associated with the music.
 - b. According to Wallace Sulley and Nico Major, two respected DJ's and breakdancers, breakdancing came from the clubs when all the music faded away except for the drum beat which is referred to as the break, and the dancers would create moves that corresponded to those beats (Major and Sulley 1).
 2. Rival gangs used breakdancing in territory battles.
 - a. In the South Bronx breakdancing replaced fighting between certain gangs.
 - i. Rival gangs would breakdance for territory, to prove a gang was better, or even for respect (History 1).

- ii. Many times the best fighter was considered the best breakdancer because they had the most strength.
 - b. Fights would often erupt anyways because of misjudging of the competitions and upset over scores (Breakdance 1).
3. James Brown is credited with not only being the godfather of soul but with also being the first face of breakdancing.
- a. In 1969 James Brown's "Get on the Good Foot" became a huge success on the New York City disco scene.
 - i. It was such a huge success that it sold more than 500,000 copies which, for the time, was an amazing number (James 1).
 - b. During his concerts James Brown would jump around, perform acrobatics, and have very high energy performances. His performance of "Get on the Good Foot" is actually credited for being one of the main inspirations for breakdancing.

Transition: Now that we have heard where breakdancing comes from let's find out about what exactly this form of dance involves.

- B. Breakdancing encompasses many different moves and choreography, but the most commonly used moves can be found in the categories of basic moves, power moves, and freezes.
 - 1. Basic moves are considered the base for breakdancing.
 - a. The rest of breakdancing moves are founded around the basic moves.

ground with both feet held high in the air, and an airchair which looks like a chair with your back to the floor and your arms supporting you.

Transition: You have heard about both the history and moves of breakdancing, but how is this form of dance important today?

C. Breakdancing is still important in our society today.

1. Whether you realize it or not, breakdancing has had a large effect on popular fashion in our society.
 - a. Trucker hats were worn by breakdancers to aid them in headspins (Breakdance 1).
 - i. In the 1990's they found their way to the mainstream where they became a huge fashion statement.
 - b. Fashion trends such as wearing bandanas under hats in order to protect the fabric from pulling hair has also made its way into pop culture.
2. Breakdancing has also had a large effect on main stream media.
 - a. Breakdancing is very closely associated with hip hop.
 - i. In 2001 Hip hop sales accounted for 11.7% of the U.S market (Conrad 260).
 - ii. In many of these hip hop music videos breakdancing can be found.
 - b. MTV, Flashdance, and now shows such as Americas Best Dance Crew are attributed with bringing breakdancing into the homes of millions.
3. Breakdancing is still an important form of expression for the youth in our society.
 - a. Breakdancing is now an accepted form of dance and for those who participate, it requires an extreme amount of mental and physical concentration.

- i. Joel Tan, who is the Extreme Fitness Champion of 2002, stated of breakdancing, “We consider ourselves professional athletes. I may be a dancer but I do not believe in going to clubs because that’s a waste of time and money. We want to be a positive example. We want to impress on people that breakdancing is a healthy activity” (Chen 1).
- b. Since breakdancing came onto the scene in the seventies it has provided an alternative to street violence (Breakdance 1).

Transition: The history, moves, and importance of breakdancing tie very closely together, but at the end of the day the most important thing is that it is a creative and healthy form of expression.

III. Conclusion

Review Main Points: Breakdancing came about in the seventies, many of its most famous moves can be broken down into three categories, and it is still important today.

Restate Thesis: Breakdancing has been prevalent in our society for over three decades.

Closing Device: Year after year breakdancing continues to push the envelope and to be fresh and innovative. It all began with James Brown and the ‘B-Boys’ and it has evolved into a refined and accepted form of dance. I think it is safe to say that breakdancing is bound to be a creative force and an important form of expression for many more decades to come.

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