

**Advanced Dance  
Spring 2017  
Narrative Project**

**Narrative Structure:** a choreographic structure that tells a story.

**Goals:** At the end of this project, students will have successfully choreographed a narrative dance based on a selection from NPR's *This American Life*. The audience will be able to understand what is being communicated due to the calculated use of Universal Dance Vocabulary and generated movement that does not include acting or miming.

**Project Outline:**

- Students will select a podcast from *This American Life* ([www.thisamericanlife.org](http://www.thisamericanlife.org)). Go to the "Radio Archive" tab and click on the various years to see what episodes are available. Listen to a few that are of interest to you, and finally select one to create your dance about.
- After listening to your selected episode, write a summary of the episode in paragraph form. (Due: 2/22)
- Take your summary and use the dance vocabulary worksheet to decide what your movements will look like at each part of the story. Select vocabulary words that will best communicate what is going on in the story (i.e. - how is the character feeling? Is there any imagery or vivid description?) (Due: 3/3)
- Choreograph a solo with a narrative structure. (First draft due 3/3)
- Final performance March 8, 9, or 10 (TBD)

**Solo requirements:**

Your dance must

1. Communicate the story of your selected episode in *This American Life*.
2. Have a clear and thoughtful beginning, middle, and end.
3. Use dance and movement that does not include acting or miming/gestures.
4. Be at least 3 minutes long.
5. Be set to an instrumental piece of music (preferably not an instrumental cover of a song with words).