

SECTION

2

ARTISTIC
KNOWLEDGE AND
PROCESSES



FOUNDATIONS IN ARTISTIC KNOWLEDGE AND PROCESSES

Skills in Performance

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Section 2 of this learning material. In this section, you will gain foundational knowledge essential for researching significant issues relevant to your performance development. You will explore your locality, school, market, and streets to observe people's activities and attitudes and document your findings in your journal. You will also ask people questions about issues of concern to them in the locality. Write the responses people give to your questions in your journal for presentation in class. You are therefore encouraged to participate actively in the exercises and to always respect the views of others when discussing the topics covered in this section.

At the end of this section, you should be able to:

- Research and discuss emerging topical issues in Ghana and document for class presentation.
- Compose/choreograph a five to ten-minute piece of dance, music and/ or drama based on emerging topical issues in Ghana.
- Identify and assign roles to be performed in a five to ten-minute piece of dance, music and/ or drama through auditioning.
- Rehearse a five to ten-minute artwork(s) developed based on an emerging Ghanaian topical issue.
- Present/Perform a five-to-ten-minute artwork developed that depicts any emerging Ghanaian topical *issue and digitally record the performance.*

Key Ideas

- Some emerging topical Ghanaian issues, may include but are not limited to teenage pregnancy, hypocrisy, environmental pollution, bullying, peer pressure, girl-child education, poor sanitation, and drug abuse:
- Researching and interpreting the findings
- Observation, participation, and questioning
- Documentation
- Understanding the environment and the culture of people

EMERGING TOPICAL ISSUES IN GHANA

Research, in simple terms, is the process of gathering information and documenting the findings for future use. When you research, you find new things, new knowledge, and many things you did not know before. Research helps you be active all the time to build your knowledge and facilitate your learning. It makes you understand issues and increases your public awareness. It promotes confidence in reading, writing, analysing, and sharing valuable information.

In research, several techniques can be employed to gather information, such as observation, interviews, and questionnaires, among others. Research is crucial for producing any artwork. The idea or issue that the artwork will address must be thoroughly explored, and observation plays a key role in this process. Observing involves taking a keen interest in the things you encounter. As you observe the behaviours of people around you, you evaluate, draw conclusions, and make notes on what you have seen. This demonstrates your curiosity and willingness to critically examine your environment.

For instance, among the topical Ghanaian issues we have observed, which ones are you interested in using to choreograph a dance piece, compose a musical work, or create a drama piece, and why? While you have already used an issue as a creative stimulus in your group performance, are there others you wish to explore in greater depth? Are there cultural practices or values within your community that you would like to use as creative inspiration?

The key observations you make will lead you to acquire new ideas about a topic, an object, a person, or a situation that you can incorporate into your artwork. As a creative individual, the entire world is your library, and you must continually observe your surroundings. Observation starts with your immediate environment, and as you observe, you will find inspiration that enhances your imagination.

When observing the environment, it is important to be mindful of the culture of the people. Cultural practices can vary greatly, and understanding these differences is crucial. For example, two linguists may perform libations—one using a calabash and the other using a glass. Culture can be defined as the totality of the lifestyle of a group of people at a specific place and time. It is dynamic rather than static and may change due to new ways of life. The artwork you create should be rooted in the culture you are familiar with. By creating from what you know, your work will resonate with those who understand the culture, and it will also educate those who are unfamiliar with it. Understanding your culture will enable you to describe it effectively and create meaningful artwork.

Activity 2.1

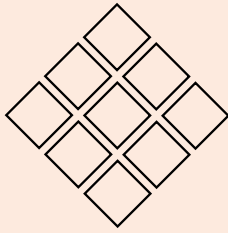
- 1 a. In groups of three, start by observing a selection of pictures, paintings, books, or documentaries that highlight emerging topical issues in Ghana. Each group member should take notes on what they see, focusing on the key elements of the issue being presented. After watching, discuss the images and documentaries, with your group, identifying any patterns or important details.
- b. Write down three (3) of the issues identified from the observations. This will form the basis for your creative process. Use this template below to help your discussions and also to record details for each of the issues:

Who does it affect?	
What is the issue?	
Where is it happening?	
Why is it happening?	
How does it affect people?	
What are the causes and effects?	
How can we change things for the better?	

Activity 2.2

With the entire class, use the Diamond 9 strategy to prioritise the issues discussed in **Activity 2.1**. Each group will list the issues they feel are most impactful on the class board. Together with your group, rank these issues from the most to least significant by placing them in a diamond-shaped ranking system.

Discuss your choices with your group, and be prepared to explain why you prioritised certain issues over others.



The issue you think is most significant or impactful should go to the top, and the least should go to the bottom.

You and your group are free to define what you consider significant or impactful. Use your definition to guide your ranking.

Activity 2.3

Your group should select and prepare a presentation of one of the issues you researched and how you intend to create a 5- to 10-minute performance (music, drama, or dance) to address it. When presenting, clearly explain the main points and significance of the issue to the rest of the class. Use visual aids or examples from your research to support your summary.

Use the following questions as a guide for the presentation:

- What is the issue?
- Where is the issue happening?
- Which people commit the issue?
- Who is most affected by the issue, and why?

Activity 2.4

1. As a member of your group working on the Subject matter of ‘Unity’ for your artwork, you will need to meet with the chief of your community. How would you approach the chief to gather information that would enhance the uniqueness of your artwork? What would you do with the information you obtain from the chief?
2. Consider the career opportunities you could pursue with the skills developed in this lesson.

Note: Present each activity in a separate report.

Extended Reading

- Poole, G. (2010). Introduction: Teaching Theatre, Performance and Drama Studies. *Australasian Drama Studies*, (57), 4-9.
- Washabaugh, W. (2020). Introduction: Music, dance, and the politics of passion. In *the Passion of Music and Dance* (pp. 1-26). Routledge.

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- Appiah-Adjei, D. (2017) *Death on Trial*. Bethesda Publishers.
- Asagba, A. O (2009) *Theatre and Minority Rights SONTA*.
- Gyan Apenteng, K & Appiah-Adjei D (2010) *Culture and Nation Building*. Digibooks.
- Korem, K. A & Abissath K. M (1996) *Traditional Wisdom in African Proverbs*.
- Kleon, A. (2014) *Show your work*. Library Congress Publication.
- Yankah V. (2014) *Dear Blood*. University of Cape Coast Press.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Imagine you are arranging a telephone interview with the assembly member in your community. List some questions you would like to ask about two of the issues assigned to you and your group.
2. Additionally, develop a brief address to be shared with the assembly members outlining the purpose and expected outcomes of the artwork you are going to produce.

Answers to Review Questions

For **Questions 1 and 2**, learners may provide different critical thinking answers depending on their level of proficiency.

Acknowledgements



Ghana Education
Service (GES)



List of Contributors

Name	Institution
Prof. Yirenkyi Samuel Manaseh	UEW, Winneba
Yaw Owusu Asiamah	Wesley College, Kumasi
Patience Nukpezah	UEW, Winneba
Dr. Daniel Appiah-Adjei	University of Ghana, Legon