

Color Guard Choreography

Facing the facts, I have come to realize that choreographing anything can be really challenging! There are so many things to think about when making up work: What does the drill look like? Are my students going to hit band members if I put this move in? Are my students at a high enough level to do this move? Is the music too fast or slow for this move? How many counts is this move going to take? Are we going to count the way it says to on the drill or are we going to count differently?

This is just part of a Color Guard Director's dilemma. Here are some categories that may help you decide the level of your group: (Note** these are not W.G.I. standards)



Level 1: Beginner: Most beginning students can do basic moves, such as drop spins, windmills, figure 8 (witches brew), pop tosses (pops), and a few tosses including a concert toss. (They may be able to do more depending on what the director teaches them). These students need to have fundamentals written into their show. For parts of the show, try putting in a couple windmills, or a witches brew. This not only makes them practice their basics, but it looks clean and it is an easy enough move to teach to these youngsters!

Level 2: Novice: Novice sounds really like "Beginner" but there are differences. These students will have a good understanding of the basic moves and are capable and willing to learn slightly harder moves. These include but are not limited to: Inverted windmills, horizontals (helicopter), and Yo-Yo Tosses. These students are able to execute more difficult moves and are able to teach younger or inexperienced students these moves.

Level 3: Intermediate: The Intermediate students have been doing this for a couple of years. Believe me, they don't come without kinks, but they are able to teach, write and execute work for the most part, on their own. These students need little help learning work, and are great helps when it comes to teaching inexperienced members.

Level 4: Advanced: Advanced students are able to do basics with very little effort and in fact, may need newer more complicated moves in their basic warm-up. These students have good understanding of the placement of the flag in the air and in their hands and are able to envision how they look when they do work to the point where they need very little cleaning.

Level 4: Expert: These students are for all intents and purposes the most experienced students. They have the ability to learn, write, teach, and execute work with minimal errors and may even be able to write their own show. It is important that these students are challenged to an extent. If there is a part of the show that you are having trouble with, ask them to choreograph 32 counts. Or, if there is a new student that is having trouble, assign them to your experienced student to tutor whenever possible.

