

Kristina Hixson

Mr. Phillips

AP Language

October 10, 2018

#### Thursday Night Dance Class

At the end of the dance season this past year, the owner of the studio where I dance asked my class what we liked about the season, what we did not like about the season, and what we would want to change for the next season. Although different points were brought to light, almost everyone had complaints that our Thursday class was not giving us the tools we needed in order to improve our dancing and push us to be the best dancers we can be. This season, my class was disappointed to find out that we had the exact same schedule on Thursday evenings, even though we had explained to the owner, who is also one of our teachers, that the Thursday class was not bringing us the joy that dance normally brings. The owner of my studio should change the time, length, or teacher of our Thursday night class in order to create a more beneficial experience that helps students to improve their dancing skills and feel confident in using dance to express themselves.

The Thursday evening class is two hours long, longer than most pointe classes, and ends at 9:00 PM, later than any of our other classes on other nights. Wearing pointe shoes is difficult and can be painful; it requires putting the weight and pressure of a dancer's whole body onto their toes. When dancers put their full effort into a pointe class, their feet will likely hurt and they will be tired from pushing themselves physically. Having a two hour class on pointe puts people in pain, which makes it difficult to dance to our fullest ability toward the end of the class. This class feels especially long because it is half an hour longer than any of our other pointe classes, and also starts and ends later than any of our other classes. When we are not used to dancing on pointe for a longer period at a later time, it also increases the likelihood of injuries. If we are tired and pushing our bodies, we could potentially do something harmful while trying to compensate for our tired limbs. It is hard for us to work to our fullest ability at the end of a class when we are focusing on trying to keep our bodies healthy.

The teacher who teaches our Thursday night class does not care about us. During a dance class, dancers want the teacher to watch them, pay attention to them, and give them corrections so that they can improve and learn how they can better use dance as an outlet and a way to tell a story. The teacher of our Thursday night class does not pay attention to us while we're dancing, and is very selective about who she gives corrections to. It is very frustrating to go into her class every week and work hard to be the best that I can be when she only puts minimal effort into teaching the class. She has been teaching us for three years and only knows the names of three people in the class. The reason that this teacher is allowed to teach at our studio is because she was a world renowned ballerina when she was younger and currently plays a major role at the local ballet company, Carolina Ballet. The owner feels that due to this teacher's extensive experience, having her on our staff makes our studio look good. My class and I realize that we are lucky to learn from someone who was influential in the world of dance, however, just because she was a good dancer does not make her a good dance teacher. If the owner wants this class to remain two hours, then she should change the teacher to someone who will help us improve our technique and style.

Everyone in my dance class loves to use dance as a way to express themselves and wants to be able to take classes that will help them grow physically, mentally, and emotionally through dance. Our Thursday evening pointe class is not a class that helps dancers improve their dancing, and we deserve to have a class that will help us be the best dancers that we can be. We want our teachers to change the time and length of the class, or the teacher teaching it, because it would create a more productive and supportive environment that dancers want to be in so they can further their love for dance.