

More Than Pretty Pink Tutus



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According to dictionary.com, a sport is defined as "an athletic activity requiring skill or physical prowess and often of a competitive nature."



Derived in the early 17th century, dance was created as a pure source of entertainment for English royalty. As decades passed, it began to evolve into an art form. It was used to express one's emotions and portray a certain story. Today dance has become a very controversial topic. Some see it as a sport, while others see it as a simple hobby. There is no black or white category to place this activity; it has found its permanent home in a gray area.

Dance, like all other sports, requires hours of practice each week. In fact, talented dancers often spend 13-15 hours each week in the studio and have been dancing since a very young age. Like any other sport, dance requires fitness, concentration, agility, endurance, and technique. It also requires elegance and the ability to move different parts of the body in long, fluid motions. In order to achieve all that dancing entails, a dancer must practice daily and maintain top physical condition. In comparison to football, many believe that dancers do not reach the same level of athletic activity. Therefore, it is an uphill battle of trying to place a value on the talent and athleticism that is required to be a dancer.

According to dictionary.com, a sport is defined as "an athletic activity requiring skill or physical prowess and often of a competitive nature." Indeed, dance is a very athletic activity that requires strength, flexibility, and endurance—key characteristics that are needed for almost every sport. Dancers must have specific skills in their area of talent, which are acquired through years of rigorous

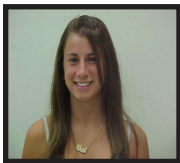
training. If it were as easy as some make it out to be, then why isn't everyone a dancer? The last part of the definition emphasizes the fact that a sport must be of a competitive nature. Here is where the gray area becomes more obvious. Although dance originated as a mere form of entertainment, today it is highly competitive.

In this case, it should be considered a sport because it covers every requirement mentioned in the definition above. All year around competitions are held specifically for dance studios in all areas of the country. The dancers perform their routines to be judged by experts in the field. At the end of the competition overall winners are chosen and are usually given a trophy as well as a cash prize. Not only do dancers compete, but they are also rewarded.

Cheerleading, although different from dance in style and rules, is very similar except for the fact that it is considered a sport. They both require physical fitness and activity, and both activities are performed for an audience in competitions that are held in a very similar fashion. In fact, dance and cheering competitions are often held together. Because of their similarities, both activities should be either rejected as sports or accepted as sports. This newspaper agrees with the latter.

Those who have reservations need only to experience a dance competition or rehearsal themselves. Dancers are dedicated to what they do, and they put every ounce of effort they have into every practice and performance. Blood, sweat, and tears are no less common on the dance floor than they are on the basketball court, gridiron, soccer field, or wrestling mat.

Finder's Keepers: not always the case



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If a large amount of money fell into your possession that did not belong to you, you would have to make a difficult choice of what you are going to do with it. You have two choices. The first choice would be to think of the person who lost it and try to find its owner. Benefiting your needs, the second choice would be to keep the money for yourself. It would be a hard decision for most of us, but one student at Lakeland Regional High School proved that students have higher morals than we may have thought.

January 4, a Thursday afternoon just like any other for sophomore Ed F-----, forced him to face a tough decision. It was 2:35 P.M. and Ed was walking towards his bus ready to go home from school. A fellow student in front of him was emptying his pockets when a large roll of money fell out of his pocket. Since he didn't notice his loss, the student continued to his bus. Ed's initial reaction was to put his foot on the money and look for the boy, but he was gone.

When Ed got home he counted up the money, which summed

up to 130 dollars. Knowing it was that large amount of money, it was a harder decision on what he was going to do with it. Putting it away in his bank crossed his mind. But it was easy to decide when Ed stated, "I even felt guilty keeping it for the night, that's kinda why I gave it back." Ed knew if he had bad feelings for having it for one night; he could not possibly keep it forever.

The next day Ed brought it to school with him to give it back. His father supported the wise decision made by his son. He gave it to Vice Principal, Dr. Ron Finklestein. Administrators and the student thanked Ed for his moral decision.

With all the crime, cruelty, and bad treatment in the world, hearing a situation like this sends a feeling of relief that there are some decent people out there still. Surrounded by all different kinds of people daily, everyone knows at least one person who would have taken the money and spent it without thinking twice.

It is nice to know that if I ever lose something or need help there would be people out there who would help me without thinking. There are not enough positive stories to let someone feel that comfort, but if everyone in the world thought the same as Ed F-----, it might be a more secure world.

When a big price falls into small hands, it is interesting to see the cost, for it is not always finder's keepers, loser's weepers.