



## Lynnette Overby and Michele Root-Bernstein

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### THINKING TOOLS AND THE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY IMAGINATION: EXPLORING ABSTRACTION IN DANCE AND CREATIVE WRITING

**Workshop Leaders: Lynnette Overby and Michele Root-Bernstein**

**For Teachers of Grades 8-12**

**3 hours of instruction time**

**Maximum number of workshop participants: 30**

Imaginative thinking tools such as observing, abstracting, and pattern-forming animate all the arts, humanities, and sciences. These imaginative thinking tools can also be the basis for a multi-disciplinary approach to learning and can serve as a unifying focus in education. In this workshop, teachers learn about abstracting, the thinking tool that forms the basis for creative work, and participate in the composition of a dance/poetry work. At each step of the way, participants discover how abstracting forges connections between one discipline and another. Workshop participants take away a workable strategy for making multi-disciplinary connections that apply not just to dancing and writing, but to math, science, history, and other subjects.

This workshop can be led by both presenters together or by one presenter alone.

LYNNETTE YOUNG OVERBY, Associate Professor, Michigan State University, earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Hampton University, Master of Arts in dance education from George Washington University, and Ph.D. in motor development from the University of Maryland. She is director of a teaching, research, and service component of the Department of Theatre entitled the Program for Interdisciplinary Learning Through the Arts. Previous positions have included teacher and dance company director at Duke Ellington High School for the Performing Arts, director of the Coppin Dancers at Coppin State University in Baltimore, Maryland, and Coordinator of the Dance Program at Howard University in Washington, D.C. Dr. Overby recently served as President of the National Dance Association. Her publications have appeared in *The Journal of Mental Imagery*; *The Journal of Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance*; *Cognition, Imagination and Personality*; *Journal of Human Movement Studies*; and *Dance: Current Selected Research*. In 1996, she received a Teacher Scholar Award from Michigan State University. In 2000, she was named the National Dance Association Scholar/Artist, and in 2004, she received the Leadership Award from the National Dance Education Organization.

MICHELE ROOT-BERNSTEIN, independent scholar and writer, is co-author with Robert Root-Bernstein of *Sparks of Genius: The Thirteen Thinking Tools of the World's Most Creative People* (Houghton Mifflin, 1999). Her current research focuses on body thinking, polymathy, creative imagination, and the invention of imaginary worlds in childhood. In addition, she pursues a number of expressive writing projects, including the writing and illustrating haiku. She has consulted with Robert Root-Bernstein on the creative process in education for national institutions and museums, including the Getty Education Institute and The Smithsonian Institution. She has taught in elementary, secondary, and university classrooms and presented teacher workshops on imaginative thinking tools through writing for Michigan State University. Together with Lynnette Overby, she presents a dance/poetry workshop to students of all ages, dancers, writers, and teachers. She received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Pennsylvania and a Ph.D. in history from Princeton University. At present, she is an adjunct professor at Michigan State University.