Lesson 6

**Objective:** To attach personal meaning to dance

**Handouts:** "I Am From Lesson Plan"

**Warm-up:** Alvin Ailey speaks to how his “blood memories” influenced his dances. We all have memories, which can be translated into creative expression. Read poem “I Am From” by George Ella Lyon.

**Strategies:** Poetry writing
1. Refer to the “I Am From” lesson plan in the 2001 Ailey materials. Frederic Locke, Jr., Dawn Jackson, and Linda Christensen have shared a detailed lesson plan on how to pre-write, create a poem, and extend it.

**Follow up:** What lines of your poem would you like to see performed as dance? In what dance style?

**Teacher Workshop Activity:** Brainstorming
1. What else would you do in your classroom to attach personal meaning to the arts? Why does personal meaning matter?

**Teacher Brainstorming**