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KEY ELEMENTS TO ANALYSE IN A PERFORMANCE

1 Message

What is the main message or story of the performance? What ideas or problems does the artist talk about?

Example: In "Black", Dave uses his lyrics to tell a story about the struggles of growing up black in Britain. His message asks everyone to see these issues and work together to create a positive change.



2 Performance delivery

How does the performer's delivery (voice, movement) help share the message? What emotions does this create?

Example: Dave's performance starts with simple piano music, setting a reflective mood. As the performance builds, more instruments join and his rapping becomes louder and stronger, making the song feel more important and urgent. This gradual build-up strengthens his powerful message.



3 Visual design & stage elements

How does lighting, stage setup, costumes and visual effects help share the message. Do the visuals stand for anything specific?

Example: Dave's stage is designed in black and white, showing the contrast between Black and White experiences. This design keeps the focus on Dave's message, while the visual projections highlight key words, increasing the power of his lyrics. The camera work, including dizzying spins, mirrors the intensity of the pain in his lyrics.



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4 Audience Interaction

How does the performer engage with the audience? Do they make eye contact, use gestures, or address the audience directly? Does this change the impact of the message?

Example: At the end of his performance, Dave stands and gives the final verse directly to the camera. This makes his message feel personal and urgent, bringing the audience closer to his story..



5 Context

Understanding the context of a performance can help you understand it better. Research the historical, social, and political events connected to a performance. Ask yourself: Why is this message important now?

Example: Dave's performance talks about the Windrush scandal and media bias against Meghan Markle. Knowing about these events makes his message feel even stronger. Context helps explain why certain words or visuals might have more emotional impact.

