Title: The rise of the Argentine tango

Topic: Argentine tango

General Purpose: To inform

Specific Purpose: To inform my classmates about the history and culture of Argentine tango.

Central Idea: Argentine tango was the result of reinvented music, society, and fashion clashing together.

Time: 4 +/- 1 minute

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Attention-getter: How many of you have seen or danced Argentine tango?

Up until 3 years ago, I didn’t have a clue of how tango even looked.

B. Credibility material: Upon doing extensive research, surprisingly I discovered, Argentine tango wasn’t something that had just developed over time. It was the result of social frustration among the lower classes. Argentine tango developed on the streets of Buenos Aires, Argentina, at the beginning of the 20th century (Castro, 1990). Argentine tango was the result of reinvented music, society, and fashion clashing together.
C. Relevance to audience: Obviously, many of you are not involved with Argentine tango in the way you think. You may have never danced nor have any desire to dance Argentine tango, but the development of this type of dance affects more than just movement. It changed music, social interactions, and fashion, the results of which can still be viewed today.

D. Preview of speech: I’m going to talk about the different aspects that combined to create Argentine tango.

*Transition from introduction to body:* First we have to look at what began changing dance—the music.

II. BODY

A. The first thing to spur Argentine tango was a revolution of Argentinian music (Thompson, 2005).

1. The Milonga was one type of music that resulted in the revolution. It originated in Argentina and had a quick rhythm, keeping dancers on their toes (Cara, 2009).

2. Another type of music developed during this time was the Vals. Originating in Spain, the Vals had a slower pace rhythm that was similar to the waltz.

*Transition from first main point to second main point:* As the music began to change, the crowd that gathered also reflected this change.

B. The second stimulant that inspired Argentine tango was the social environment.
1. Argentine tango started out being danced by the poor and criminal class. However, as it developed into a stylized and standardized dance, it became a dance for all social classes (Castro, 1990).

2. Eventually, the dance floors became too crowded. In comparison to ballroom dancing, the moves of tango had to be compact. Though they can be manipulated to take up space, tango moves were designed to allow dancers to move easily around each other in tight spaces.

**Transition from second main point to third main point:** Once the music and dance moves were established, fashion took priority. Being a dance of creativity and passion, the tango outfits were a reflection of these characteristics.

C. Fashion became a major influence, almost as much as the music and environment surrounding tango.

1. At the time that Argentine tango was beginning to take off, women began rebelling against the rules of their attire. Instead of wearing long skirts and low heels, women wore risqué dresses with long slits. Woman’s clothes were loose and flowing in order to capture the movement of the dance. They wore high heels which allowed them to seem to have longer legs, but to move on ball of their feet more quickly (Nielsen, 2005).

2. Tango was considered an event to dress up for so men wore jackets, vests, and hats. They also wore shoes that allowed them to pivot on the dance floor, leading the women in smooth and flowing dance steps.
Transition from body to conclusion: With fashion being the final piece to the puzzle, the people of Buenos Aires had created a new form of dance.

III. CONCLUSION

A. Summary statement: Having rebelled against what they had typically known so far, Argentinians reinvented the music, dance environment, dance moves, and fashion, and created a dance that shattered the idea of what was socially acceptable.

B. Audience response statement: Can you imagine what it would have been like had Buenos Aires not made these changes? What would women still be wearing and what would the music be like?

C. Wow Statement: Argentine tango still affects different aspects of culture and to this day, Argentine tango still ripples through society as one of the most passionate dances that exists.
References


