Research:

The TED Talk lecture on Frederic Chopin’s 24 Preludes Op.28 given by composer Benjamin Zander uses classical music as a metaphor as he discusses passion, faith, leadership, and success, and how we can use these elements while overcoming our societal pessimistic approach to obstacles throughout life. Some of the main points discussed in this speech are:

1. Leadership Stems from Passion
   If you keep your eye on the "long line" (future or long-term goal), you can follow that vision fueled by your passion.

2. Awaken to Possibility
   It only takes one leader. As a leader, your role is to keep that vision in mind to awaken the possibility for others to find their own vision.

3. Working to go from “Away” to “Home”
   Zander compares Chopin’s Preludes to a journey, taking the artist from “away” to “home,” as they overcome each obstacle along the way.

Art:

The process of turning research into art:

1. Analyze: What are the key points that I want to get across to my audience? During my process as a choreographer, I decided that the most important points to share with my audience were: leadership, the “long line” or end goal, and the journey that Zander describes as going from “away” to “home.”

2. Convert: Now that I have my main objectives, I can find a creative approach to converting the ideas into movements to help my viewers develop an understanding of the concept. Here are some elements I used in my work to try and accomplish this conversion:
   - Circles/Spinning: I chose to have the piece begin with the dancers spinning in circles to represent how, as individuals, we can plateau and get caught in a continuous cycle until the definitive moment that we choose to strive for more. Out of this spinning, all but one dancer fall to the floor. This one dancer, standing strong, represents the leadership it takes to find a vision and spread that vision to others.
   - Solos: I utilized strong walks forward to show how working towards one’s goal is as simple as taking one step at a time.
   - Walks: The conclusion of the piece is important because it is the last impression left upon the viewers. I chose to end my piece with one dancer continuing the strong walks forward towards her “home,” while the other dancers are left in a state of being pulled back and forth between their past and their future. I chose this ending because I believe it pertains to life: We are never done growing and adapting, and the road to “home” is one that we will walk forever, as we find and overcome new obstacles each day.

3. The Conclusion
   Finding an ending to the work is the final, and most important step. The conclusion of the piece is important because it is the final impression left upon the viewers. I chose to end my piece with one dancer continuing the strong walks forward towards her “home,” while the other dancers are left in a state of being pulled back and forth between their past and their future. I chose this ending because I believe it pertains to life: We are never done growing and adapting, and the road to “home” is one that we will walk forever, as we find and overcome new obstacles each day.

The Long Line (2016) is a contemporary modern piece inspired by Zander’s lecture on classical music. The work is choreographed entirely on the diagonal and is danced in three parts to the melodic and nostalgic sounds of the piano. The theme of the work is multi-faceted, exploring the struggles and obstacles of everyday life and the different ways people respond to these experiences. Through seamless, raw, and boisterous movements, the dancers go on a journey of learning and growing as they move one step at a time towards a newer and stronger version of themselves.