

GUIDE TO WRITING NOTEWORTHY CONCERT APPRECIATION ASSIGNMENTS

Basic Vocabulary

- Remember the meaning of several common musical terms:
 - “Style” – Refers to the overall character and mood of a piece.
 - “Tone” – Refers to the quality of sound created by a performer.
 - “Timbre” – Refers to the character (color) of the “Tone” created by a performer.
 - “Texture” – Refers to the *combination* of colors or “Timbres.”

Grammar Tips

1. When referring to a specific piece of music, be sure to either underline, “quote,” or *italicize* the title so that it stands out.
2. When using any musical vocabulary, *italicize* it. For example, *Allegro*, or *Presto*.

General Tips for Writing

1. In paragraph one, be sure to give a full description of the performance you are attending. Meaning, elaborate on **who** is actually performing, **why** they are performing, **where** they are performing, and **how**.
2. Before completing paragraph two, select 1-2 pieces or examples that stuck out to you that you can discuss at length. In discussing the 1-2 pieces, use specific examples instead of just discussing the piece in generalities. For example, “The texture consisted of the soprano saxophone and banjo, which elicited feelings of serenity and joy.”
 - a. DO NOT *judge* the performance. That is *not* the point of the paper.
 - b. Avoid talking about **every** piece. Again, choose 1-2 examples and discuss.
3. To complete paragraph three, chose 1-2 **concepts** that we have discussed in class, for example “tone,” “balance,” “phrasing,” “effort,” and so on. Avoid making comparisons between music, think about topics/concepts only.
4. Finally, for paragraph four, just talk about your favorite part of the concert. When you discuss why this was your favorite part, use musical vocabulary to back up your reasoning. For example, “My favorite part of the concert was the ten minute bass guitar solo. The performer’s technique and musicianship dazzled audience members.

** **OF COURSE, ASK QUESTIONS IF YOU ARE CONFUSED!** 😊 **