

### Class Blog Response Project: First draft prompt

Your first draft is due via email one week after the comments period ends on your blog post. Refer to the timeline provided in the assignment explanation handout, the color-coded calendar available on the class website, and the individual assignment deadline sheet you received in class.

Write a 2-3 page (no fewer than 2, no more than 3) paper reflecting on the experience of sharing a piece of music with the class.

You can write about any aspect of the experience you choose, but here are some questions to get you started:

- Why did you choose the piece that you did?
- What kinds of reactions did your classmates have to the music?
- What did you find most surprising about the experience?
- What did you learn from the experience?
- Were you nervous for any part of the experience? Excited?
- What did it feel like to be the teacher instead of the student for this assignment?

You do not have to answer all of these questions or do them in any order. Treat them as a brainstorming or prewriting exercise similar to those we do together in class, and use the ideas you generate to form an essay. As always, use concrete examples to support, clarify, and demonstrate your answers to these questions. Refer to the attached rubric to make sure your essay fulfills all expectations.

**Formatting.** Your paper must be typed (12-point font, 1-inch margins), 2-3 pages, and emailed to [music.drjones@gmail.com](mailto:music.drjones@gmail.com) before its due date as an email attachment (.doc or .docx only).

You will not receive a letter grade for this first draft; it will be graded for completion. If your draft is late (received after 10pm on its due day), it will lose 1 point per day, up to 2 weeks. After 2 weeks, your draft will not be accepted and you will receive a 0 for this assignment.

After you submit your first draft, you will receive two things from me:

- 1) A filled-out copy of the first draft rubric (see next page); and
- 2) Comments from me about your writing.

Use both of these to guide your revisions and editing as you strive to improve and expand this essay into its final version (due at the final exam). Hold on to them—you must hand in both your first draft and your graded rubric with your final draft.

Mu 110 Introduction to Music  
Class Blog Response Project – first draft rubric

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

	Strong	Good	O.K.	Weak
<b>Title</b> The title is engaging, accurate, avoids clichés, and is not too long.				
<b>Critical Thinking</b> The essay is insightful rather than vague or superficial; the essay goes beyond the superficial by thoughtfully incorporating comparison, contrast, and/or synthesis; the essay addresses the implication of the ideas under consideration.				
<b>Support</b> The essay uses specific examples that are interesting, relevant, specific, sufficient, and directly connected to the main idea; any musical examples are accurately described.				
<b>Structure</b> The essay contains an effective, engaging, and clear introduction; the essay presents a logical flow of ideas; the essay avoids straying or meandering; each paragraph remains focused on the idea of its topic sentence; the conclusion effectively sums up the main points but is not a repetition of the introduction.				
<b>Use of technical vocabulary</b> The essay uses discipline-specific vocabulary appropriately and accurately.				
<b>Written Skill</b> The essay is well-organized and generally contains correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling; the essay demonstrates appropriate and effective word choice and style; the prose is easy to follow, precise, and clear; the essay avoids both vagueness and redundancy.				
<b>Requirements</b> The essay adheres to the requirements of the prompt (length, format, number of examples, kinds of examples, etc.).				

**Common problem areas** – any items circled are relevant to your essay

- 1. Inaccuracies.**
- 2. Ineffective introduction.** Try writing your introduction last or using your conclusion as your introduction (and writing a new conclusion!)
- 3. Unfocused paragraphs.** Each paragraph should have one main idea. Each paragraph should have a topic sentence. Make sure all sentences in the paragraph support the topic sentence.
- 4. Weak evidence.** Examples should support your argument explicitly. Your examples may be too vague.
- 5. Too much summary.** Analyze, don't summarize! Focus on what each idea means more than listing what happens.
- 6. Confusing flow of ideas.**
- 7. Grammar/Punctuation.**
- 8. Requirements** (length, number of examples, format, etc.)