

Project 1: Introduction to Musicological Analysis 1 – final draft rubric

Student: _____

	Strong	Good	O.K.	Weak
Critical Thinking The thesis is insightful rather than vague or superficial; the essay demonstrates an accurate understanding of the musical content and goes beyond the superficial by thoughtfully incorporating comparison, contrast, and/or synthesis; the essay addresses the implication of the ideas under consideration.				
Support The musical examples used are interesting, relevant, specific, sufficient, and directly connected to the thesis; the musical examples are accurately described; the essay includes the required number of examples.				
Structure The essay contains a logical flow of ideas; the essay avoids straying or meandering; each paragraph remains focused on the idea of its topic sentence; the conclusion is not a repetition of the introduction.				
Use of technical vocabulary The essay uses discipline-specific vocabulary appropriately and accurately.				
Written Skill 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.				

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. Make sure all sentences in the paragraph support the topic sentence.

4. Weak evidence. Musical examples should support your argument explicitly. Your descriptions of your musical examples may be too vague.

5. Too much summary. Analyze, don't summarize! Focus on what each musical idea means more than listing what happens.

6. Confusing flow of ideas.

7. Grammar/Punctuation.

8. Requirements (length, number of examples, format, etc.)

Grade: _____