

Reflection #4: Reconnaissance – due in class W Mar 27 / F Mar 22

In writing, a reflection is an open-ended opportunity to think about the significance of an idea, an experience, or a topic. In the process of committing our ideas to paper, we often discover what we want to say, and we discover insights we didn't know we had. There is no research involved in any reflective writing for this class, and reflections are often highly personal, although yours does not have to be.

Along with Reflections #1, 2, and 3, you'll be returning to this piece of writing several times over the course of the semester:

Mar 4-10 (due online Mar 2)	Peer critique #1 – sharing a paragraph from Reflection #1 or #2 with your section of Mu 101
Apr 1-7 (due online Mar 30)	Peer critique #2 – sharing an excerpt (any length) from Reflection #3 or #4 with your section of Mu 101
Due F Apr 12 / W Apr 17	Refining all 4 Reflections and creating an overall course reflection in your Writing Portfolio

You may find that similar ideas appear in this writing as did in your previous Reflections—that's fine! If you find yourself responding to, arguing with, expanding upon, or diverging from something you previously wrote, that means you're continuing to deepen your position as a critical thinker!

This is the only research-based Reflective Writing in Mu 101, but the research will not result in a factual (expository) report, nor does it involve traditional library resources. You will be assigned a living classical musician and a New York City-based classical music organization to learn about through the following sources: read their materials online (website, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, anything that comes up in a web search), listen to their work (YouTube, Instagram, web), and visit the organization (if possible). In your Reflection 4, you will reflect on how classical music gets made today, and this will serve as preparation for the in-class Roundtable Discussion held W Mar 27 / F Mar 22.

Requirements (3)

(1) Prompt. You do not have to respond to all of these prompts (and it would likely result in an unfocused, rambling piece of writing if you did!), but do take one of them as a starting point. You can take these questions in a lot of different directions—they're intentionally open-ended and broadly framed:

- How is the classical music world of today similar to or different from other fields with which you're familiar of any time period?
- What problems or issues do you see with the way in which classical music is made, marketed, or distributed today? What improvements can you imagine?
- What's the point of classical music? Why do people make it or listen to or think about it today?

(2) Broadening the scope. Whatever direction your reflection takes, make sure it includes this final feature. Show how your ideas are relevant *beyond* the scope of your reflections on the soundscape—what’s the point of your ideas beyond just responding to the prompt? You could show how the ideas you’ve mentioned are controversial, you could rebut potential criticism of your ideas, or you could show how your ideas connect to other experiences, disciplines, or knowledge outside of this class.

(3) Revise. Don’t turn in a first draft. Writing takes time. Do a little bit each day. Ten minutes a day over the course of a week is more effective than an hour crammed in the night before a due date. Give yourself time to mess up and recover. Schedule time in your calendar to just write without distractions—no friends, no music, no TV, no Internet, no phone, no multitasking.

Formatting and submission

In general, written college assignments are typically typed using 12-point font, double spacing, and 1-inch margins. I won’t penalize you for not following these norms, but your doing so does make my grading process significantly easier.

The only requirement I do have is that if you need to email me a file because you will miss class, you must name it like this: LastName, FirstInitial – Reflection 1 (Example: Jones, A – Reflection 1). If you send me any other file name, I will not accept it. The only file formats I will accept are .doc, .docx, or .pdf. Attach your file directly to your email; I will not accept a link to a cloud service (e.g, OneDrive, Google Drive, iCloud).

Grading

This assignment will be graded on a scale of Credit/No Credit. If you do not submit an assignment, it will be marked “No Credit.” If you know that you will be absent, make arrangements to submit your work *before* it is due—send it via email, send it to class with a friend, or drop it off in my mailbox.

If you submit your assignment and it is marked “No Credit,” you can resubmit it as many times as you like until it receives “Credit.” Each new version must include the previous version and a “Process Letter” in which you explain what you’ve done differently in this revised version and what you’ve learned in the process.

There is no length requirement for this assignment. I am only looking for good writing... Refer to Reflection #1 for all of Dr. J’s writing and editing suggestions, as well as resources on the class website: www.drjonesmusic.me/writing-tips