

Mu 101 Best academic practices – based on Roundtable #2 (T Nov 26 / Th Nov 21)

- Be present and participate!
- Prepare for discussions/activities by (1) reading to understand the main idea, (2) re-reading for details that you can talk or think about, and (3) making a list of things that stood out to you
- Practice being a good empath. Write down questions until the speaker is finished.
- Assume someone is speaking with positive intent. Ask non-judgmental follow-up questions.
- Be patient as others gather their thoughts
- Let everyone take turns in speaking. Don't cut other people off.
- Be aware of who is not talking in order to invite them to speak
- Ask more questions
- Speak loudly and clearly
- Challenge others' ideas in a respectful manner as opposed to pretending to agree with something you don't agree with
- We all think differently about things and that can make a conversation go really well
- Getting off-topic can still lead to a meaningful discussion
- It's ok to jump in and express your thoughts because it may spark another topic
- Anyone can play a role; change shouldn't be a closed door
- It's fascinating to sit down and listen to other people discuss their research

Roundtable discussion takeaways

- We can still find passion for classical music and classical musicians, as evidenced by the excitement of my classmates in this discussion.
- What does "perfection" mean? Is it even real?
- Many musicians begin training at an early age (but not all), and not all come from musical families
- Understanding how much (or how little) you know about the world of (classical) music
- "Music" is difficult to define – there are many ways to think about it and make it
- Different cultural groups use different kinds of metrics of success. Social media doesn't matter to everyone.
- Familiarity/comfort zone (and its neural pathways) shape our taste – from geography, enculturation, exposure
- "Greatness" requires good PR, being elevated by others, being well-known
- There's a difference between taking what you do seriously and taking yourself seriously.
- There are many ways to defy stereotypes (tradition, gender, social, sounds)
- Music is constantly changing. Not all music is made to please an audience. Not all musicians are motivated by money.
- Centering a person's race, ethnicity, or gender can be othering—especially if we only mention it in the context of people who are non-white, non-cisgender, non-male (and imply that there is a "norm" by doing so)
- Other people's motivation and dedication can be inspiring
- Talent isn't a guarantee of success. All opportunities aren't available to everyone.

Why take Mu 101? According to current Mu 101 students

Boost your imagination

Promotes critical thinking in various topics other than music

It's hard if you're not good at time management

Credit/No credit grading takes the pressure off

Variety

Learn about yourself, like what you like and don't like

Practice your writing skills

Like the Matrix: "You can take the red pill or the blue pill."

How music relates to our lives

Expand your understanding of music

See music differently

Understand the principles behind music

Develop confidence in expressing yourself through writing and through spoken words

Develop your social skills

Develop your creativity

Improve your reading ability and critical thinking

You learn from your classmates