

CONCERT REPORT FORMAT

Begin With:

Your name
Name of group/soloist(s)
Date of performance
List of pieces performed

Length: No less than two pages and no more than three pages

Grading Policy for Concert Report

The following percentages are assigned to the overall grade of the concert paper.

Introduction	10% in length and value
Objective Description of the Music	30% in length and value
Subjective Description of the Music	50% in length and value
Conclusion	10% in length and value

BODY OF THE PAPER

Description

Introduction

(10% in length and value)

Briefly identify the concert. Who performed? What pieces were performed? Where was it performed? Briefly describe the performance space, physical surroundings, and the appearance of the performers.

Title of the First Piece

OBJECTIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE MUSIC

(30% in length and value)

This is **your** description of what **you** heard at the concert. If a work has several movements describe the manner in which the movements are related. Provide a **narrative** of your observations concerning such elements as melody, rhythm, dynamics, tempo, instrumentation, texture, form, etc. Describe the major musical characteristics of the piece, including the solos, tempo, dynamics, instrumentation, or themes, etc.

- You must write about every piece on the concert. Comment on every piece on the program! I cannot emphasize the importance of this enough.
- You do not have to describe all movements of each piece. If a work has several movements describe the manner in which the movements are related.

!! Heads Up !!

The objective descriptions must consist solely of *your own observations* about the music as performed at the concert you attended. Your paper should *not* include facts about the music from other sources including: program

notes, the web, liner notes, other students, the text, etc. **Including unaccredited material—program notes, web sites, newspaper reviews-- from outside sources in your objective descriptions will result in a failing grade.)**

SUBJECTIVE REACTIONS TO THE MUSIC

(50% in length and value)

These paragraphs describe **your** emotional response to the music. Did you like it or dislike it and, most importantly, **why** did you react as you did? What about the performance affected you? Express your opinion, but don't forget to explain your reasons.

Did you like individual pieces? Did you have emotional reactions to any particular piece? Why did you react the way you did? Was it in the composition or the performance or both? What held your attention? Did your mood change in the course of the concert? Was the concert full of variety or was it all more or less the same? Could the performance be better? How? Could the selection of compositions performed have been more to your taste? Was this a familiar or a new experience? Was there a theatrical dimension to the performance?

Write a single short paragraph of subjective reaction for *each piece* on the concert even if the piece has more than one movement. Do not write a separate subjective reaction for each movement in multi-movement pieces.

Titles of Additional Pieces

Objective Descriptions and **Subjective Reactions** for each additional piece on the concert follow here. Write on each piece performed.

Conclusion (10% in value)

Did you like or dislike the experience overall?

Quality of Performance

The final Quality of Performance paragraph is the conclusion of your report. It focuses on the concert as a whole, rather than on the individual pieces. What were the notable features of the overall performance? Were there far too many wrong notes? If you know the pieces, were there some different or even incorrect interpretations? Were there distracting elements in the performance? Or was this the most inspired and inspiring performance that you have ever heard? Were you emotionally moved by the concert? Were some parts of the concert better/worse than others? Were there aspects that you found especially pleasing? Were there any surprises at the concert? Would you go again? Remember that "music criticism" is not only looking for faults, but is also recognizing the especially good things that happen during a performance.

A final word .

Do not let feelings of inadequacy about what you do or do not know or the lack of experience gets in the way of enjoying the music. It is not the same as going to a game or an amusement park, and the rewards are not the same. Your involvement as part of the audience is—like music itself—more thoughtful, subtler, refined. Going to performances enriches your life and provides a reward that can be had no other way. I might also add that it has been my experience that students find they enjoy live concerts even more than they thought they would!

Suggestions

Write the first draft of your report as soon as possible after the concert so your impressions remain fresh, **but do not write during the concert**. Use the program to remind yourself of what you heard when you write your report. Use the program as a way to helping yourself use correct terminology. Do not use the program notes as a substitute for your own thinking and personal reactions; do not cram your report full of historical tidbits about the piece. Comment on matters of historical background only if they directly influence your personal experience of the music.