

Musical Analysis

TIPS IN WRITING MUSICAL ANALYSIS

1. **LISTEN** – melody, instrumentation, contrast, tonality, rhythm, repetition
2. **LOOK** – score reading: key, themes, indicate measures to emphasize highlights
3. **OBSERVE**
 - What are your first impressions of the music? Try to arrive at a set of descriptive adjectives rather than value judgments (“disjointed” or “unsettling” rather than “ugly” or “confusing”).
4. **TECHNICAL vs. LAY LANGUAGE**
 - Technical- for clarity
 - Lay Language – describe the evidence of your ears

5. Metaphor

Good writing about music almost always employs metaphorical language, which can convey the essence of a musical passage far better than technical description alone.

Sample Analysis

(Song: Somebody I Used To Know – Gotye)

The song is in a 4/4 time signature and the tempo can be described as Adagio with 68 beats per minute. The speed of the song also reflects the mood that would be described as sad, depressing, angst. However in the chorus of the song the mood does tend to lift a little due to the change of instrumentation and vocal projection, but the lyrics being sung still cast a sad shadow over the song.....



FUR ELISE by Beethoven

Fur Elise is a very popular classical piece but unlike other pieces, this one is not orchestrated and only consists of one instrument, which is piano. This piece begins in 3/8 time with the left hand accompanying the right hand with arpeggios. The texture of this piece is Homophony which means two or more parts are moving together in harmony creating chords. The harmony in the A and B section are created with the arpeggiated chords found throughout the majority of the piece. In the B section, the harmony is found in the left hand while the right hand is creating the melody.....



Music Analysis

Activity 1 – By Pair (20 pts.)

Writing of Music Analysis : “The Entertainer” by Scott Joplin

Rubric

Structure and Descriptive Vocabulary (10 pts.)

Musical Content (10 pts.)

(Elements of theory: harmony, melody, rhythm, instrumentation, orchestration, tempo, dynamics)



Individual Musical Analysis(30 pts.)

A Music Convention will be held in Cultural Center of the Philippines next month. As a music professor, you were tasked by your coordinator to present an analysis of a musical score. The participants will include different music instructors and heads in various secondary schools. Your presentation will be evaluated based on the musical content, structure and descriptive vocabulary.

Sites for music pieces:

- http://makingmusicfun.net/html/printit_piano_sheet_music_index.htm
- www.pianoworld.com/freepianomusic.htm
- www.8notes.com/

RUBRIC FOR MUSIC ANALYSIS PAPER

	7 pts	8 pts	9 pts	10 pts
Structure (grammar, spelling, citations, references)	The essay has no structure, there are more than 6 grammatical/spelling errors, most of the references and citations are inaccurate.	The essay has an unclear structure, there are 6 or less grammatical/spelling errors, at least half of the references and citations are accurate.	The essay has a notable structure, there are 4 or less grammatical/spelling errors, the references and citations are mostly accurate.	The essay has a clear and cohesive structure (opening, body, closing), there are 2 or less grammatical/spelling errors, the references and citations are totally accurate.
Musical Content (Elements of theory: harmony, melody, rhythm, instrumentation, orchestration, tempo, dynamics)	The essay includes content on 4 or less of the 7 listed elements of theory, the content is mostly incorrect.	The essay includes content on 5 of the 7 listed elements of theory, the content is half correct.	The essay includes content on 6 of the 7 listed elements of theory, the content is mostly correct.	The essay includes content on all 7 listed elements of theory, the content is totally correct.
Descriptive Vocabulary (new musical terms and your own individual descriptive language; creativity)	The essay does not use individual descriptive language.	The essay uses at least some individual descriptive language.	The essay uses fairly significant amounts of individual descriptive language.	The essay uses significant amounts of individual descriptive language.