

The White Station High School Honors Orchestras

Honors Activity Choices

I. Orchestra Concert Program Note

Write a Program Note for our current concert. Your program note will deliver information you have learned, through research, about the music you are performing. The notes will be researched, documented, and in your own words. Excerpts from some of these notes may be included in our concert program. The note should be at least one complete page, and include a summary paragraph that can be used in the Concert Program here at White Station High School. (See VI for further writing instructions)

II. Concert Report

Attend and review a formal music concert. To receive full credit, the student must document their attendance by providing a printed program and a written critique. The written critique will be at least one complete page, and include a summary paragraph.

Acceptable concerts include orchestral, solo, chamber, ballet, and opera performances at the professional, collegiate, or high school level (in other words, your age group or older). Live musicians – not pre-recorded music – must be performing. You cannot critique a concert in which you are performing. If you have a question about acceptability of a performance, ask me about it before you go. Since you are providing a printed program, do not copy the program in your essay. Use it as a reference.

Your critique should include: The name(s) of the groups or performer(s), conductors, soloists, etc; Where and when was the concert; The name/description of the selections performed; The purpose of the event (if there was one); The impact on the audience.

Did you enjoy the concert? Will you go hear them again? Were you surprised by anything you saw or heard? Anything else you would like to add?

III. Summary of Three Music Journal Articles

Summarize three or more Music Journal Articles. These may be found in the library, borrowed from Dr. Palmer or another music teacher, on the internet, or from a local store. Journal articles can be about musicians, instruments, performances, working conditions, etc. They should NOT be reviews of concerts, recordings, the latest amplifier, etc. The summaries will demonstrate your comprehension of the topic, not simple regurgitation. They will be written in your own words. Each summary will be at least one-half page in length. Your report will include a summary paragraph of all you have learned.

IV. Comparison of Three Recordings

Listen to three different and distinct recordings of one selection from our current concert. Compare and contrast the three recordings to each other, as well as your own orchestra. The summaries will demonstrate your comprehension of the topic, not simple regurgitation. They will be written in your own words. The Comparison will be at least one complete page, and include a summary paragraph. It will also distinctly identify the recordings you used. Your report will include a summary paragraph of all you have learned.

V. Live Chamber Music Performance

Perform in a Chamber Music Ensemble for an audience and/or a judge. If I am not present for the performance, please provide a written summary of your experience.

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VI. Writing Requirements (for Activities I, II, III, and IV)

A. For the body of your text, use 12 point font (this size), double spaced, and be concise. Your titles, name, headers, etc. should not be double spaced.

B. Scoring.

1. Spelling counts. (10)
2. Grammar counts. (10)
3. Clarity counts. (10)
4. Content. (50)
 - a. While a summary of this length cannot be exhaustively comprehensive, it should demonstrate knowledge of the composer / topic.
 - b. The information will be **in your own writing** (not cut and paste).
 - c. If you are doing research, you should find some information that is new to you, i.e. "I didn't know that Mozart's father was also a composer," or, "The plural of concerto is concerti!" Make sure you tell the reader what YOU learned in your research.
 - d. Demonstrate your comprehension of the material. Do not simply compile a group of facts. Connect the dots.
 - e. Closing Paragraph. Summarize your Honors Activity.
5. Documentation (20)
 - a. You must cite your sources. I should be able to locate your source material from your documentation.
 - 1) Program Notes: at least two sources
 - 2) Concert Report: the Program
 - 3) Music Journals: at least three articles
 - b. If you use a direct quote from a source (copied it word for word), please use "quotation marks" and make a direct citation (source & page number) at that time. Give the full source information at the end of each report.