

Music Study with the 5 Common Topics

Composer: _____

Song title: _____

Date: _____

Style/time period: _____

Location: _____

Topic	Purpose	Questions	Your response
Definition	To define what can be observed in the piece	What instruments do you hear? What structure or musical pattern does the composer favor? What is the tempo? What are the dynamics used (piano- soft, mezzopiano- moderately soft, forte- loud, fortissimo- very loud)? Is there a melody and harmony?	
Comparison	To compare this piece to another to identify what makes this piece unique	What is creative or original about the piece? What musical patterns are similar in this section? What patterns are different in this section? How is this piece of music similar to other compositions you've listened to? How is it different?	

<p>Relationship</p>	<p>To consider: - the relationship of the piece to previous pieces - the influence of this piece on the music that followed</p>	<p>Was this song or style a reaction to previous musical style/movement?</p> <p>Is it similar to earlier works or did it depart from the previous style or technique? What sets this section apart from others?</p> <p>How did faith, culture, homeland, and other composers influence this music?</p> <p>What effect did this piece or style have on the culture of the time?</p> <p>Did this piece influence others musicians/composers?</p>	
<p>Circumstance</p>	<p>To consider outside influences on the artist that may have affected the choices made</p>	<p>Under what conditions was this composition created?</p> <p>Why did the composer make the choice he did?</p> <p>What major world events were going on at that time? How might these events have affected it?</p> <p>How does the composer achieve variety in this section?</p>	
<p>Authority/ Testimony</p>	<p>To consider what art historians and art critics have said about the artwork</p>	<p>What was said about the compositions and musical style at the time it was created?</p> <p>What do experts say about this composition?</p> <p>Are there documents from the same time period that mention the artwork?</p> <p>Who is this authority?</p> <p>Are they credible or trustworthy?</p>	

How does the musical selection affect you?

What emotion does it evoke?

How is the piece a reflection of its composer?

How does their selection of musical instruments affect this piece?

How does the tempo affect the mood?

What new things do you hear when you listen to the piece a second and third time?

What makes this selection memorable?