

GUIDELINES FOR CONCERT REPORTS

- If possible, prepare for a concert by listening to some of the works to be performed and by reading about their composers in advance.
- Observe good concert etiquette by arriving on time, remaining for the entire program, and refraining from conversing while the works are being performed. Do not applaud between movements of a multi-movement work. If you arrive late, or must leave early, be sure to wait until pieces have ended before taking a seat or departing.
- Indicate the date and venue of the performance including observations of the setting and audience members (age range, dress, manner, etc.).
- Cite the instruments and/or voices used and the type of work you are reviewing: solo, band, orchestra, choral, chamber, opera, concerto, etc.
- Whenever possible, consider the historical era in which each composition has been written, and cite some of its stylistic characteristics.
- Include your observations about the performance itself. Did the musicians perform in a convincing or an exciting manner?
- Choose at least one work to discuss in detail or include observations of several compositions.
- Consider the three basic elements of music [melody, harmony, and rhythm] as well as the three basic musical textures [monophonic, homophonic, polyphonic (contrapuntal)], describe how these elements are used in the pieces you hear. If a particular work has compelling rhythm, for example, discuss the details. If a composition is highly dissonant, explain its effect. Or, if the texture is noteworthy, identify the texture(s), and discuss how the composer has used this element effectively.
- Discuss the formal aspects of a composition with a discussion of fugue, sonata, variations, rondo, etc., where appropriate. If you are able to discern binary or ternary form, include these details as well.
- Most of all discuss what you enjoyed most or least about the live concert experience, and why.
- Reports should be typewritten and double-spaced.