

Live Performance Critique

Students must attend a live music performance and write a critique. This means a performance with musicians singing or playing instruments – not a recorded performance or “live” recorded/streamed performance. Events viewed on television, YouTube, DVDs, or videos do not qualify as a live music performance.

Examples of performances that you could write a critique on:

- Instrumental Music Concert – Any level (elementary, middle school, high school, college, community group, or professional)
- Musical – Must have a live pit orchestra, not a recording/CD
- Choral Concert – Any level (elementary, middle school, high school, college, community group, or professional)
- Rock, Jazz, Hip-Hop, or Pop Concert
- Ballet – Must have a pit orchestra, not a recording/CD

*If you are not sure a performance will qualify, please **ask Mr. Loney ahead of time.***

Part I. (15 points)

Answer the following questions after attending the performance:

Name of Performance	Performing group
Location	Date and time
Approximate size of audience	Approximate size of performing group
Instrumentation of the performing group (how many of each instrument?)	Venue – describe acoustics, location, interior description
Appearance of the performing group	Genre (Rock, Classical, etc.)

Part II. (60 points)

Choose three selections and complete the following information for all three pieces. The selections should be from the beginning, middle, and end.

Title	Composer
When/where did the composer live?	Tempo
Meter	Major or minor key? (or multiple keys)
Length (in minutes)	Instruments featured
Dynamics	Blend and Balance
Intonation	Attacks and releases
Articulations	Musical Effects
Describe the mood of the piece overall and how it made you feel.	

Part III. (15 points)

What was your overall impression of the performance? How do you think the group performed? Comment on:

Intonation (pitch)	Blend and Balance
Dynamics	Attacks and releases (were they together?)
Articulations	Stage Presence
Was the group watching the conductor? And each other?	Tone/sound quality

Guidelines for writing your critique

1. Use appropriate, high school level writing.
2. The report should be at least three-pages, typed, and double-spaced.
3. **Critique must have a title page & report cover. (5 Points)**
4. **Must attach program and/or ticket stub from the performance. (5 Points)**
5. The critique must be written about a performance that took place during the semester in which you are submitting it.
6. You may not write a critique on a performance that you performed in.
7. **Late critiques will not be accepted.**

Critiques are due Thursday, April 17, 2014.