

Tips for Listening

The following suggestions are ideas to help you with your listening assignments. These are only suggestions to help you get started. If you think of another topic to discuss you are encouraged to do so. Just make sure there are three separate and specific paragraphs of discussion in your answer on the listening form.

- Name a specific instrument or instrument family that your attention was drawn too, and what importance their musical passage had to the overall piece.
- What does the piece remind you of and what emotions does it evoke? Does the music tell a story?
- Are there reoccurring themes through out the piece? If so, are the same, or how do they differ from one another?
- How does the composer use dynamics and articulations to develop the expressive range of the piece? (Louds and Softs, Shorts and Longs, Accented or Tenuto, etc.)
- Using what you learned about the piece and the composer, describe their specific musical trademarks that were utilized in the composition of the piece? (Beethoven = Loud and Aggressive, Miles Davis = Blues and Rhythmic syncopation (Bebop), etc.)
- Did you like the interpretation of the piece? Were there certain areas of the piece you would have liked to of heard played differently? If so, what sections and how would you want them to be different?
- How were your opinions of this particular style of music changed, if at all, after listening to the piece?
- What basic musical elements did you observe while listening to the piece? (Syncopation, counter melodies, dissonance, question and answer, harmony, major or minor keys, etc.)
- Do you like the piece? If so, what elements of the piece were your favorite and why? If not, what elements did you not like, and why did it ruin the piece for you?