

Concert Review Assignment Guidelines

General Information

Concerts you may attend include most classical music performances. Symphony, choral, chamber music, or soloist performances are acceptable, and must be college or professional level.

Every concert review must have documentation in order to be accepted. A program is required, and you may also include a ticket stub, photo, or concert memorabilia.

During your in-class presentation, you will give a short first person account of the concert, not simply read your paper to the class. Papers are due by the last day of each semester.

Writing Format and Instructions

When you go to a concert, you must stay for the entire duration of the performance. Take notes during the concert (do not be disruptive!), and write your first draft soon after while it is still fresh in your mind. Give yourself time to draft and refine your writing into a thoughtful essay, which should be double-spaced, 2-3 pages in length. Suggested format is below.

Introductory Paragraph

This paragraph should contain the following information: the name of the performing group, the title of the concert, the director(s) and/or accompanists, the venue, the date and time of the performance, approximate numbers in attendance, and any other information that paints a picture of the concert experience. Use descriptive language when writing about what the performers look like, how they are dressed, and the scenery of the venue.

Body

In two to four paragraphs, clearly describe the performance. Talk about each piece that was performed with as much detail as possible. Address the following areas: stage presence of performers; the ensemble/soloists accuracy, intonation, tone quality, and sound; the look and sound of their instruments; the flow of the performance; the interest level and reaction of the audience; the performers style and interpretation of the music; whether the performers were connecting with the audience or ignoring them; what you liked most and least about the performance. What impressed you most about the performance and why? Support any negative opinions with suggestions of how the performers could have improved the problems.

Closing Paragraph

Restate your overall opinion about the performance. Was it a worthwhile, entertaining, enlightening, moving experience for the audience members, or did it fall short? Would people who are not musicians enjoy this performance? Why or why not?

