

Music Department Writing Plan

The purpose of this documents is to outline the expectations for Writing Emphasis courses within the music department. It also summarizes the qualities of writing valued in the department and the skills that the Music WE courses are designed to develop in student writing.

Values

The music department faculty values the following qualities of effective written communication, in both academic and professional contexts:

- Clear, concise prose
- Organized and coherent structure
- Consideration of genre, audience, and purpose
- Professional tone and language
- Detailed analysis of musical scores, recordings, and primary sources
- Thorough research of authoritative texts
- Accurate and precise citations of sources

Skills

We strongly believe that it is necessary for students to develop strong writing skills in order to be effective professionals. Writing Emphasis courses and their component assignments are designed to develop the following skill sets in student writing:

- Long-term project management
- Completing a quality work product within a prescribed timeframe
- Critical reading of source material
- Engagement with scholarly discourse
- Synthesis of research and analysis to determine original/independent conclusions
- Presenting effective arguments and supporting them with evidence
- Revision and proofreading
- Formatting within the appropriate academic conventions

Types of Writing

The types of writing that music department students create in our WE courses are determined by the most common modes of written communication that will arise in their future music careers as performers, directors, educators, and more. These types of writing include but are not limited to:

- Academic papers
- Presentation materials
- Portfolios
- Lesson plans, syllabi, and curricula
- Evaluations and assessment materials
- Program notes
- Professional correspondence
- Press releases/Promotional materials
- Websites

The variety of genres, purposes, and audiences reflected in these assignments address the multifaceted nature of any one career in music as well as the diversity of paths that our students take within the field after graduation.

Coursework

In pursuit of the qualities of good writing valued by our faculty, the skill sets our assignments are designed to develop in our students, and the types of writing those students will encounter in their future careers, the music department has identified the following courses as Writing Emphasis:

- ***Music Courses: All Music Majors***
 - MU-255 Music History and Literature I
 - MU-355 Music History and Literature II
 - MU-458 Music History and Literature III
- ***Education Courses: Music Education Majors Only***
 - EDU-105 Educational Foundations
 - EDU-187 Human Relations

We recognize the value of written communication in all of our courses, and students can expect to complete writing assignments in any and all music department classes. Above and beyond the inclusion of writing assignments, Writing Emphasis courses will devote instruction time to the development of effective writing skills and good writing habits. Students will be given the opportunity to revise their written work with the guidance of instructor feedback, so that in integrated connection with the course content, students are learning to write, writing to learn, and gaining confidence and experience in their individual writing process.