

## MU 431 - Paper Guidelines

The two papers are your opportunities to display your ability to take an assigned 'issue' and discuss it in an organized, coherent fashion—with a **thesis**. The emphasis is on the content of the paper, but since MU 320 was a prerequisite for this course (and ENGL 134 was a prerequisite for MU 320!), I expect that it will be well-written with careful proofreading. Source attribution (footnotes or endnotes) for all quoted AND paraphrased information and a bibliography are required (and make sure that you are familiar with proper citation formats for music, as covered in your Music 320 course). I also am requiring that you turn in your **outline** with each paper.

Remember: if you put an item in your bibliography, there should be at least one reference to it in the body of your paper—otherwise, someone might think that you are 'padding' your bibliography. Also remember: if you get an idea from another source than your own brain, you must cite that source—even if you're paraphrasing that information. The exception: if you're including 'common knowledge' information in your paper (birth/death dates, well-known biographical data), you don't have to include a note—unless you're quoting the source word-for-word, in which case quotation marks and a citation are required. If you have any questions about proper source citation, I beg you to come talk to me!!! (particularly before the papers are due . . .)

Papers should be typed (double-spaced) with reasonable margins and PAGE NUMBERS. The paper should start with an unnumbered title page; a catchy title never hurts. Please staple your paper!!

Papers will be assigned grades according to the following criteria:

Mechanics (12 pts)	50-45 points	A
Outline (3)	44-40	B
Bibliography (3)	39-35	C
Appropriate use of citations (3)	34-30	D
Style (voice, transitions, etc.) (3)		
Content (38 points)		
Effective introduction (2)		
Clear / convincing thesis (3)		
Logical Organization (3)		
Thesis 'proven' in course of paper (3)		
Effective conclusion (3)		
Research, analysis, evaluation, etc. (24)		
Score Busters		
Typo / Spelling / Grammatical Errors = -.10 pt / each		
"Late" papers will lose 5 points per day		

### Paper No. 1

**Due: Thursday, October 16**

The first paper is an analytical and evaluative study of a keyboard work written by a woman composer during the Classic period. You will be assigned a score; your primary task is to **analyze** the work to determine its structure (form) and as an example of Classical composition, assessing how it represents the Evolving Musical Ideas of the Classic Period (and how it does *not*, if this is the case). I will also expect you to include a brief discussion of your work's composer; the Reference Room

will be of help to you. (I have also placed a few books on Reserve in Kennedy Library that will assist some of you.) Please address what you see as the artistic strengths and/or weaknesses of your particular piece. The list of “Analytic Elements to Consider” in this Reader may be helpful to you.

**Paper No. 2**

**Due: Tuesday, December 2**

The second paper is a summary, comparison, and analysis of the various kinds of concerts that will have been described in the concert presentations during the course of the quarter. You should briefly address the chief characteristics of each kind of concert, but you should also discuss an overview of the changes (and similarities) of the various formats. Moreover, what differences (or similarities) do you see between these 18th- and 19th-century concerts and the concerts you've been to during your life? For this paper, your bibliography should certainly include the handouts distributed in class and the assigned New Grove II articles, but you may not have to do much additional research unless there are issues you wish to explore further.

## Analytic Elements to Consider

1. Structural Elements
  - a. form ("defend" your answer by identifying specific measures where structural elements begin)
  - b. medium
  - c. genre
  - d. style
  - e. musical era
  - f. mood(s)
  - g. what do *all* the indications in the score mean?
2. Rhythmic Elements
  - a. tempo(s)
  - b. meter(s)
  - c. subdivision(s)
  - d. syncopation?
  - e. ostinato?
  - f. special devices (*i.e.*, Scotch snap, dotted rhythms, swing)
  - g. Articulation (staccato, legato)
3. Melodic and Harmonic Elements
  - a. Mode(s) and Key(s); identify areas of change
  - b. Texture(s) (monophony, etc.)
  - c. Melody type(s) (conjunct vs. disjunct)
  - d. Proportion of Consonance/Dissonance
  - e. 'Simple' or 'complex' harmony?
  - f. Special devices (*e.g.*, sigh motive, suspensions, sequence)
  - g. How would you describe the phrasing?
  - h. Dynamic range
4. *For Vocal Pieces*
  - a. *Type of text setting (syllabic, neumatic, melismatic, mixture)*
  - b. *What's it about?*
  - c. *Word painting*
  - d. *Voice type(s)*
  - e. *Is there an accompaniment?*
  - f. *What is the role of the accompaniment?*
  - g. *Rhyme scheme of poetry?*
5. For Instrumental Works
  - a. Is it programmatic? What's it about?
  - b. Are all instruments used continuously in the work?
  - c. Are there "melody-only" instruments and "accompaniment-only"?
  - d. How would you describe the function of the accompanying role?
6. Other musical features of interest

Remember that our theory professors can help you if you are having trouble analyzing something