

# Analytical writing examples (interpreting a Beethoven symphony as “heroic”)

- Analysis = description + so what

## Harmony:

- I hear a major tone which could represent triumph and victory over an evil being.
- I hear a very low, minor, and fast melody that eventually becomes high, major, and fast and then transforms into a mellow mood This could represent a bad event occurring and someone comes to save the day and reassures people that everything is ok.

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Tempo:

- Rushing. In a hurry to save someone or something in immediate danger.

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## Dynamics:

- There’s a part where the music stops and it feels like someone is dying but it becomes loud again almost as if this person has been saved.
- I hear soft sounds that lead to harsher sounds. This crescendo reminds me of watching an action movie and the character is going to face a villain. These sounds are heroic because it makes you want to face your fears and in order to do that you must find your inner strength. In the middle of the piece where it is softer, I think of a hero who may be losing his confidence in what he is doing, but then finds the strength within himself to keep going. The idea of never giving up is heroic.

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## Instrumentation:

- Fast beat. Sounds like this “hero” is trying to catch someone. When the sounds of drums come in BOOM, BOOM, BOOM, BOOM, it sounds like they’re closing in on someone to catch them.
- All instruments come together in *forte* as one sound to symbolize the unity of an army. All men come together to form an unstoppable force.

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## Phrasing and mood:

- There are major tones in long phrases that come after short soft phrases. It creates a feeling of overcoming a trial. There are periods of silence, which could show the ending of a hero but then it jumps back to a major key almost as if the hero’s strength lives on.
- Calm. You may feel calm around someone you see as a hero.
- Ends pretty dark. Death of a hero.

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## Phrasing and mood:

- The intensity of the music transitions from one theme to another, from a smooth and free-flowing rhythm to a thunderous one which is heroic, showing that the work of a hero never ends and that the world needs a hero to help people.