

## Concert Response Essay #2

---

Due: December 11

Choose any concert to attend performed by Purchase Conservatory students or faculty. After going to the concert, write a 1 to 2-page essay in which you describe the *experience* of attending the concert. The strongest essays share information only *you* have access to—what you thought, why you thought it, what you felt, etc. The weakest essays will only focus on describing the musical content of the pieces performed.

In your essay, describe specific, vivid, and precise sensations from the concert-going experience. This could be anything: something in the music, something you saw in the room, a smell, how people behaved... Use your descriptions to answer the following questions in any order in your essay:

- 1) What was something that surprised you about the concert experience? Why did it surprise you?
- 2) What was something that intrigued you about the concert experience? Why did it intrigue you?
- 3) What was something that disturbed or challenged you about the concert experience? Why did it disturb or challenge you?
- 4) What did you learn about yourself as a musician, a listener, or a person from this concert experience? Why was it valuable to learn this?

Finally, give your essay a title that shows what you're going to talk about in an exciting way.



Concert Responses Essay – Rubric (staple to the front of your draft)

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_

---

<b>Title</b>	<b>Strong</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>O.K.</b>	<b>Weak</b>	Points: ___/10
--------------	---------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	----------------

A strong/good title is engaging, accurate, avoids clichés, and is not too long.

---

<b>Structure</b>	<b>Strong</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>O.K.</b>	<b>Weak</b>	Points: ___/10
------------------	---------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	----------------

A strong/good essay presents a logical flow of ideas and avoids straying or meandering; a strong/good paragraph remains focused on a single main idea, and all sentences within a paragraph support its main idea.

---

<b>Use of technical vocabulary</b>	<b>Strong</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>O.K.</b>	<b>Weak</b>	Points: ___/10
------------------------------------	---------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	----------------

A strong/good essay uses discipline-specific vocabulary appropriately and accurately.

---

<b>Written skill</b>	<b>Strong</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>O.K.</b>	<b>Weak</b>	Points: ___/10
----------------------	---------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	----------------

A strong/good essay is well-organized and generally contains correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling; a strong/good essay demonstrates appropriate and effective word choice and style; in a strong/good essay, the prose is easy to follow, precise, and clear; a strong/good essay avoids both vagueness and redundancy; a good/strong essay avoids inaccuracies; a strong/good essay analyzes rather than summarizes.

---

<b>Prompt question #1: Critical Thinking</b>	<b>Strong</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>O.K.</b>	<b>Weak</b>	Points: ___/10
--	---------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	----------------

A strong/good essay addresses this question in a way that is insightful rather than vague or superficial; a strong/good essay goes beyond the superficial by thoughtfully incorporating comparison, contrast, and/or synthesis; a strong/good essay addresses the implication of the ideas under consideration.

---

<b>Prompt question #1: Support</b>	<b>Strong</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>O.K.</b>	<b>Weak</b>	Points: ___/10
------------------------------------	---------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	----------------

A strong/good essay uses a specific example to support this prompt question that are interesting, relevant, specific, sufficient, and directly connected to the main idea; strong/good examples support your argument explicitly; any musical examples are accurately described.

---

<b>Prompt question #2: Critical Thinking</b>	<b>Strong</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>O.K.</b>	<b>Weak</b>	Points: ___/10
--	---------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	----------------

A strong/good essay addresses this question in a way that is insightful rather than vague or superficial; a strong/good essay goes beyond the superficial by thoughtfully incorporating comparison, contrast, and/or synthesis; a strong/good essay addresses the implication of the ideas under consideration.

---

<b>Prompt question #2: Support</b>	<b>Strong</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>O.K.</b>	<b>Weak</b>	Points: ___/10
------------------------------------	---------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	----------------

A strong/good essay uses a specific example to support this prompt question that are interesting, relevant, specific, sufficient, and directly connected to the main idea; strong/good examples support your argument explicitly; any musical examples are accurately described.

---

<b>Prompt question #3: Critical Thinking</b>	<b>Strong</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>O.K.</b>	<b>Weak</b>	Points: ___/10
--	---------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	----------------

A strong/good essay addresses this question in a way that is insightful rather than vague or superficial; a strong/good essay goes beyond the superficial by thoughtfully incorporating comparison, contrast, and/or synthesis; a strong/good essay addresses the implication of the ideas under consideration.

---

<b>Prompt question #3: Support</b>	<b>Strong</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>O.K.</b>	<b>Weak</b>	Points: ___/10
------------------------------------	---------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	----------------

A strong/good essay uses a specific example to support this prompt question that are interesting, relevant, specific, sufficient, and directly connected to the main idea; strong/good examples support your argument explicitly; any musical examples are accurately described.

---

**Prompt question #4: Critical Thinking**      **Strong**    **Good**    **O.K.**    **Weak**    Points: \_\_\_/10

A strong/good essay addresses this question in a way that is insightful rather than vague or superficial; a strong/good essay goes beyond the superficial by thoughtfully incorporating comparison, contrast, and/or synthesis; a strong/good essay addresses the implication of the ideas under consideration.

**Prompt question #4: Support**      **Strong**    **Good**    **O.K.**    **Weak**    Points: \_\_\_/10

A strong/good essay uses a specific example to support this prompt question that are interesting, relevant, specific, sufficient, and directly connected to the main idea; strong/good examples support your argument explicitly; any musical examples are accurately described.

---

Total points \_\_\_\_\_/120

Letter grade: \_\_\_\_\_