

Department of Music  
College of Visual and Performing Arts  
Writing Assessment Scoring Criteria

Good student writing in the Department of Music has the following characteristics:

1. (40%) The paper follows the assignment and demonstrates an engagement with the subject matter by presenting a thoughtfully considered argument.  
Excellent \_\_\_\_\_ Satisfactory \_\_\_\_\_ Less than  
satisfactory \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. (40%) The paper develops a thesis and deploys examples that relate to the thesis using an appropriate number and quality of sources.  
Excellent \_\_\_\_\_ Satisfactory \_\_\_\_\_ Less than  
satisfactory \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. The organizational strategy of the paper is appropriate for the subject matter. Form should be responsive to content (e.g. a historical paper might suggest traditional linear exposition while an analytical paper would focus closely on selected musical examples which form the paper's center of gravity).  
Excellent \_\_\_\_\_ Satisfactory \_\_\_\_\_ Less than  
satisfactory \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. (10%) The paper is written clearly, with an acceptable level of correct grammar, usage, and mechanics (i.e., sufficient to ensure accuracy of communication and readability).  
Excellent \_\_\_\_\_ Satisfactory \_\_\_\_\_ Less than  
satisfactory \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. (10%) The paper demonstrates appropriate use of prescribed formats and style conventions as assigned by the instructor.  
Excellent \_\_\_\_\_ Satisfactory \_\_\_\_\_ Less than  
satisfactory \_\_\_\_\_
  
6. Overall, the paper is:  
Excellent \_\_\_\_\_ Satisfactory \_\_\_\_\_ Less than  
satisfactory \_\_\_\_\_