

ECHS BANDS

CONCERT REPORT ASSIGNMENT

Experiencing live music is one of the most important aspects of your development as a musician. All band students are required to submit one (1) concert report each semester. The paper should be an example of your best writing skills. Students will be graded on how well they are able to effectively describe their musical experience. Points will be marked down for incorrect grammar, punctuation and spelling. Reports must be turned in within two (2) weeks of the performance attended. **Only hard copies of papers will be accepted.**

Acceptable Concerts for Review

Performances by professional symphony orchestras, wind ensembles, chamber groups, youth orchestras/wind bands, professional choirs, professional big bands/jazz combos, and productions of musicals are all acceptable performances for a concert report. If writing a review on a musical, include the name of the musical and write about the MUSIC being performed not the acting. Rock, hip-hop, country, blue grass, or pop groups are all great concerts to attend, however they are not acceptable concerts for the purposes of this assignment.

What to discuss in your review

Concert reports should discuss musical aspects of a performance and how it affected your listening experience. Some questions to consider answering: What made you connect with the music? Did you recognize the form of the piece being performed? What type of music was being performed? Can you find similarities in music you have performed in the past? What did the group do well and how did they do it? What are some things you feel they could improve on and how can they do this? **Do not include useless information such as what you wore or how you got to the concert.** Students should include musical terms such as DYNAMICS, TEMPO, TONE, MELODY, etc. Your opinion of the performance is important, however it should not be the focus of the paper – make describing the music the focus of the report.

Report Format

- Total of 1½ to two (2) pages, typed and double-spaced (approximately 500-700 words)
- **Hand written assignments will not be accepted, no exceptions.**
- Must use 12 point Arial or Times New Roman font
- Must include name, date and class on top right hand corner of page
- Must list concert date and name of group or musician
- Must be stapled
- Format titles of works performed in italics. Example: *First Suite in E Flat* by Gustav Holst

What to include in your review

- The date, time and location of the performance you attended
- The name of the group and conductor's name
- Program or ticket stub attached to paper
- Discuss at least three (3) pieces performed

What NOT to include in your review

- Do not include a biography of the group or musicians you are listening to – points will be marked off!
- Information not useful in describing the concert, example: "I really liked the color of the curtains."

Suggested Groups/Venues

- San Francisco Symphony
- Oakland East Bay Symphony
- University Wind Ensembles (Cal Berkeley, CSU East Bay, San Jose State University)
- Diablo Wind Symphony
- West County Winds
- Cal Performances
- Yoshi's Jazz Club
- SFAZZ
- California Jazz Conservatory (Jazzschool)

Students will be informed of upcoming performances in the area that are appropriate for this assignment as they come up. If you know of any concerts in the area please feel free to make an announcement in class!