

~How to Study for a Music Class~

Students should prepare a definition, description, and (or) explanation of every name, title, or term discussed in class. In essence, each should follow the principle of "who, what, when, where". This definition, description, or explanation should include each of the following:

1. Brief description—one or two sentences—of what the name, title, or term represents. (This might be the sort of thing found as the first few lines of a dictionary entry for the name, title, or term. For a composer, this must include the place of birth, and locations where the composer worked, visited, and lived.)
2. A date, or span of dates, that applies for the name, title, or term. This should be one or both of a specific date, or pair of dates, and an overall general description, such as "early seventeenth century".
3. An indication of the place, or places where the person or item was present or active. This might include a city, a state, a country, and a continent, as appropriate.
4. For terminology, an example of the item named as it normally appears in music notation.
5. Examples of music, with dates, that represents the name, title, or term. For a composer, this would be music composed by the composer; for a performer, music performed by that performer. For terminology, this would be examples of music that use the item in question. When appropriate, the examples may be very specific, including not just particular pieces, but also exact locations within individual pieces.