

Fine Arts Critique Rubric for AHS Bands

Students earning band credit are required to attend and critique one (1) live fine arts performance each semester (Band 3 Honors are required to write 2 per semester). These performances may include formal band, orchestra or choral concerts (school or professional, not elementary/middle school), musical performances, plays, or art shows. Rock, contemporary, alternative, rap, country, and other “pop” concerts are prohibited.

All performances must be high school level or above.

Extra credit may be earned for turning in critiques beyond the required number.

You may not critique performances in which you are a participant.

Some concert/critique ideas:

1. Band, Orchestra, or Choral Ensembles, High School level or above
2. Band instrument solo recitals, college level or above
3. Possibilities include:
 - a. AHS Orchestra or Chorus
 - b. LCCC Band or Jazz Band or recitals
 - c. SIU-Edwardsville Band or Jazz Ensemble
 - d. SIU-Edwardsville student recitals, band instruments
 - e. St. Louis Symphony
 - f. Alton Symphony Orchestra
 - g. Other High Schools or colleges in the area
 - h. Musicals

Proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation are expected. Critiques are to be typed and at minimum one page, double spaced, with four paragraphs (5 complete sentences to a paragraph).

Scoring will be as follows:

50pts Addresses all of the points listed below.

25pts Critique is accompanied by a ticket stub or program.

25pts Critique is typed, Times New Roman, font size 12, 1 inch margins, double – spaced, and at least one page in length. Critique is well written, having four distinct paragraphs using complete sentences, proper spelling and grammar.

1. Introduction: write about the concert
 - a. Who
 - b. What
 - c. When
 - d. Where
2. Write about the performance you saw

- a. Size of group, artists
- b. Soloists
- c. Special effects, if applicable
3. Critique one of the musical numbers(for plays, critique the overall performance)
 - a. Title
 - b. Composer/artist
 - c. Mood of the piece
 - d. How was the ensemble as a whole? Balance, intonation, rhythm, tone quality, interpretation, musicianship and expression
4. What did you like about this performance, and why? Elaborate on the performance: how did it make you feel, what did you learn/get out of it?
5. *Do **not** put “It was fun. It was good. I liked it.” That is unacceptable.*

Include the following as applicable:

- What did you see and where did you see it?
- Describe the venue. (Concert Hall, Recital Room, Auditorium, etc. What did it look like?)
- Was it instrumental, vocal, theatrical?
- Describe the musical aspects of the performance. (Tonal Quality, Blend, Balance, Articulation, Diction, Intonation, Accuracy of pitch, etc.)
- If there was more than one performer, what did you notice about their interaction with each other?
- If there was a director/conductor, what did you notice about the interaction between the conductor and players/singers?
- What was the instrumentation/voicing?
- If it was an ensemble, what did you observe about their work/energy together?
- How did the performers engage you as an audience member?
- Did you have any moments during the performance that you really liked? Why?
- Was there movement associated with the performance?
- How was the stage set?

2015 - 2016 Due Dates:

Semester 1 – Friday, December 4, 2015

Semester 2 – Friday, May 6, 2016