

# Composer Research Paper Rubric

For this paper you will be required to research a composer from history or from modern times. Your goal is to become familiar with the music and musical style of your chosen composer's work. You will also be required to research a little about your composer's life; when they lived, where they lived and composed during their life, any interesting facts about them as people, etc. In addition to writing about your particular composer, you are required to **listen to at least 2 hours** of your chosen composer's music. Please remember that this is a research paper and you will be required to cite your sources. You need to cite **at least two sources** for your paper. Your sources may come exclusively from the internet, but a book from the library may prove to be very helpful.

## Grading Breakdown:

- I. **15%: Introduction** - End with Thesis Statement
  - a. Key Points that you will discuss in the paper (At least three, no more than five)
    - i. Attention getter: a quote, or an interesting fact about the person
    - ii. Who is your composer
    - iii. Why you choose him/her?
    - iv. Other Main points
- II. **40%: Body Paragraphs (3-5)** - outline the topic sentence and supporting research for each main point you'll be covering in the paper
  - a. Early life/childhood
    - i. Birth; include when and where
    - ii. Significant events that impacted the person
    - iii. Who influenced or impacted their life
    - iv. Beginning of career
  - b. Music and musical style
    - i. Who did they study music with?
    - ii. Where did they learn to write music?
    - iii. When did they compose their first piece?
    - iv. Most famous piece?
    - v. What musical era did they live and compose in? i.e. Baroque, Classical, Romantic, etc.
  - c. What did you listen to?
    - i. Why did you choose to listen to this piece by your chosen composer?
    - ii. What did you like about it? What did you not like about it?
    - iii. Is it a well-known piece? If yes, why do you think it is well-known today? If not, why isn't it a well-known piece and do you think it should be well-known?
- III. **15% : Conclusion** - Final thoughts on composer
  - a. Explain why you have come to this conclusion
  - b. Restate thesis.
- IV. **20%: Cited Sources**
- V. **10%: Proper use of Grammar and Punctuation**