

Music 101 Tips and Hints for Writing the “Music in My Life” Paper (2 pg. min.)

Due Friday, 5 February

This paper is a chance for you to explore and express your memories, thoughts and feelings about the mysterious and wonderful art form of MUSIC that we will be engaging all semester long. As I stated in class, it is important to begin by simply writing. Write down anything that comes to your mind related to your relationship with music. You may want to write about some or all of the following: your earliest memories of music; your family’s relationship to music; how music was (or wasn’t) a part of your life growing up; how you listen to music now (casually, to regulate your mood, on special occasions only, as a soundtrack to your life); your favorite kind of music and/or favorite artist and why you like this music/this artist; your life as a musician and what drew you to your instrument(s); how music makes you feel (in general); any life-altering (or simply memorable) moments that you have associated with music. These are just a handful of ideas to help prompt your writing. If you think of other things related to music in your life that you would like to write about, by all means, write them down!

Now, as I also stated in class, make sure that what you hand in to me is something that you have organized into a narrative that traces the arc of music in your life. You may want to organize your ideas chronologically, starting with your earliest memories and advancing to the present day. Make sure that you have read your work, that it makes sense to you, and that it is formatted correctly (see formatting page from syllabus). Email me if you need more help/advice. Good Luck!