

Music Analysis Guiding Questions

OBSERVE

Identify and note details

- What is the theme of this song? How do you know?
- What is the title of this music?
- Who is performing the music? Are any names or places listed in the bibliographic record?
- Does the music have lyrics? If so, are the lyrics easy or difficult to understand? What people, places or events do the lyrics describe, explain or discuss?
- What type of music is it (blues, classical, folk, jazz, military, patriotic, rap, religious, rock, etc.)
- What instruments do you hear?
- What is the song's tempo?
- Are there details that suggest the time period this music relates to? Is the creation date listed in the bibliographic record? If the creation date is listed, was this music created at or around the same time period the content relates to?
- What other details can you hear?

REFLECT

Generate and test hypotheses

- How does the instrumentation affect the feeling or mood of the song?
- Why do you think the creator chose this particular tempo? How does the tempo affect the feeling or mood of the music?
- If there is singing, what is the singer's style? How does that style affect the feeling or mood of the song?
- Why do you think this music was created? What might have been the creator's purpose? What evidence supports your theory?
- Who do you think was the audience for this music?
- What do you think the creator might have wanted the audience to think or feel?
- How does the music make you feel?
- Does the music show bias through lyrics or tone? If so, towards what or whom? What evidence supports your conclusion?
- What was happening during the time period this music represents? If someone created this music today, what would be different/the same?
- What did you learn from listening to this music? Does any new information you learned contradict or support your prior knowledge about the topic of this music?

QUESTION

What didn't you learn that you would like to know about? What questions does this music raise? What do you wonder about . . .

- Who?
- What?
- When?
- Where?
- Why?
- How?

What sources might you consult to learn more?