

## **WIND ENSEMBLE HONORS CREDIT** **CONCERT CRITIQUE GUIDELINES**

The following assignment is due by June 2, 2008. All Wind Ensemble students wishing to receive Honors Credit for the Spring Semester must complete section one of the following information. Students who did not audition for the Central All-District Band in January must also complete sections two thru four.

Please use a word processor for the written portions.

1. **RESEARCH** – Find, read, and list three music critiques or reviews from a newspaper, periodical, or internet. Be sure to list what was critiqued, who wrote it, and where it was published. A great source for this is the New York Times. [www.nytimes.com/pages/arts/music/index.html](http://www.nytimes.com/pages/arts/music/index.html)
  
2. **PERFORMANCE** – Select a public concert to attend and critique. You may choose from the following: professional, amateur, military, college, high school, symphony, jazz, musical, rock, country. (See your director for other acceptable performances). Your director will make some of the area performances known to you by announcements and flyers posted in the band room, music suite, or bulletin board, but it is your responsibility to find a concert to attend. *You may not use a concert that you are performing in yourself.* You must turn in your ticket stub, concert program, or other proof of attendance with your critique.
  
3. **NOTES** – To help you write a musical critique of the performance, answer “A” through “F” in complete sentences.
  - A. You must include the title of concert, date and location of the concert, name of the performing ensemble and instrumentation.
  - B. Describe the concert using musical terms, i.e. dynamics, style, articulation, form, harmony, melody, rhythm, intonation, meter, texture, etc.
  - C. Be specific – name the pieces and instruments you are discussing. (program notes can be helpful)
  - D. Describe the ensemble performers. Did they work well as a unit? Did they sound balanced? Were there attacks and releases together? Did they blend? Etc.
  - E. Describe the piece on the program you enjoyed the most and why it was your favorite.
  - F. Describe the piece on the program you enjoyed the least and tell why?

Hint: Don't say anything too vague or general, such as: “they sounded good” (you can do better than that!) “the dynamics were good” (how did they achieve this?) “they need to practice more” (why?) “the rhythms were interesting” (how were they interesting?) “I liked this song” (why?) “the band had nice harmonies” (Huh?)

4. **WRITE THE CRITIQUE** – Using the information gathered above, type a one page “Critique of the Performance” as though you were writing for the New York Times! Your objective is to try and convince the reader to attend the next performance or dissuade them from attending the concert. You need to give your opinions of the concert, but back up your opinions with music terminology and facts. Do not use the phrase “I think....” in your critique. After reading the critique, the reader should understand clearly what type of music was played and the quality of the performance. Remember, you must always temper criticism with tact, positive reinforcement, and selective criticism (choosing one or two main concerns rather than a deluge of negative comments).

Your paper should be double-spaced and use size 12 “Times New Roman” font. It is recommended that you complete your critique within 48 hours of attending the performance as the information will still be fresh in your head.

Enjoy your performances of choice ☺