“Who Was the Better Composer: Mozart or Beethoven”

Grade 4
Music/Language Arts

Grade 4 Core Curriculum Language Arts
Standard 3 Informational Text
Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.

Standard 1 Writing
Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.
a. Create an organizational structure in which related ideas are grouped to support the writer's purpose.
b. Provide reasons that are supported by facts and details.

Objective: Students will listen to famous musical works by Mozart and Beethoven, and analyze why each composer was considered “Great”.

Equipment and Materials needed:
Short Biographies about W.A. Mozart and L.V. Beethoven
is a great resource.
Recording or video of Eine Kleine Nachtmusik (A little night music) by Mozart Recording or video of Symphony #5 by Beethoven (or an alternative is the final Movement of Ode To Joy Symphony #9)
Writing materials

Day 1: Have students listen to Eine Kleine Natchmusik after reading about the life of Mozart. Students write down why they like or dislike the piece.

Day 2: Have students listen to a Beethoven selection after reading about the life of Beethoven. Students write down why they like or dislike the piece.

Day 3: Have students decide which is the better composer by comparing and analyzing their notes.

Day 4: Students will write their final opinion. Their objective is to convince the teacher who is the better composer: Mozart or Beethoven. They must use paragraphs and several supporting details as to why one composer is “better” than the other. No neutral opinions are allowed.