



“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

https://www.classicsforkids.com/composers/composers_az.php

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 Nachtmusik 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.

Grade 4 Core Curriculum Fine Arts: Music Standard 4.M.R.1:

Listen to and interact with a variety of contrasting music.

Standard 4.M.R.8:

Describe elements and characteristics evident in a meaningful, enjoyable, well-performed piece of music, and apply teacher-provided criteria to evaluate musical works or performances.