

Concert Band Instrument Research Paper

What is it?

This will be a paper that describes the instrument you play and tells us about its history.

Why are we doing it?

The purpose of this paper is to teach you about the historical and technical aspects of your instrument. Now that you have been playing it for four to six years, you should know something about its background and how it works as well as how it is unique and special in the world of music.

Where do I get the information?

You can use books at our DHS library as well as internet sites. At least one source must be an actual book with real paper pages. There will be several on reserve – check with any of the librarians to find a book appropriate for you. If you want to go to the internet, start with Oxford Music Online. This is the best source for researching classical and jazz music in the English language. Go to www.oxfordmusiconline.com to access a huge encyclopedia of information about music. See the DHS Library homepage or Dr. Brame for log-in and password information. Another good website on musical acoustics is from the University of New South Wales in Australia (<http://www.phys.unsw.edu.au/music/>). Here you can learn why different instruments create different sounds (try clicking on “Basics” on the top left).

If you use other websites, be sure that they are from good sources such as professional organizations or universities, not just someone’s personal homepage. If you need help with this, see me or a reference librarian at school.

What needs to be in the paper?

1. Describe your instrument. How big is it? What is it made of? What are the different parts? How are sound waves created? What makes notes higher or lower?
2. When, where and by whom was your instrument invented? Some, such as the saxophone are fairly recent inventions. Others, such as the drum and flute are as old as civilization. Does your instrument have any predecessors? (Early trombones were called "sackbutts.")
3. What developments (such as changing from wood to metal or gaining new keys or valves) has your instrument undergone? Why were these changes made?
4. Who are some famous players of your instrument? These can be classical, jazz and/or rock musicians, but name at least one classical player and provide brief biographical info.
5. Include a bibliography with at least two sources.

Note for percussionists: Choose one of the following for your report: 1) snare and bass drums; 2) xylophone, chimes, marimba, vibraphone and bells; or 3) timpani (kettle drums).

(over)

What should the paper look like?

The paper should be 3-4 pages typed, double-spaced with 1" margins, using 12-point font. Besides the text, there should be an additional page of bibliography with at least two sources. Use the following (or similar) format:

Book:

Grunansky, Alexei. *The crumhorn: An illustrated history*. New York: New Music Press, 1987.

Website:

Harrington, Helmi Strahl. "Accordion." *Grove Music Online*. Available at http://www.grovemusic.com/shared/views/article.html?from=search&session_search_id=628490973&hitnum=1§ion=music.46180. Retrieved April 13, 2016.

How will it be graded?

Here is the rubric I will use:

	3 points	2 points	1 point
Description of instrument	complete details of materials, size, and shape	missing important details	superficial or incorrect information
Description of tone production	in-depth explanation of the physics/acoustics	missing important details	superficial or incorrect information
History and development	in-depth with all the major developments	lacks depth or missing important details	superficial or incorrect information
Famous players	important players described	superficial info or missing a classical player	no players listed
Bibliography	complete with authoritative sources	incomplete or questionable sources	missing
Up to 5 points may be awarded for exceptional content.			
15=95 14=90 13=85 12=80 11=75 10=65 5-9=60			

When is it due?

We will have three check-in dates. To show me that you have done each task, share it with me in a Google document. Do this by going to "My Drive" and right-clicking on the document. Select "Share..." and type my email address (dbrame@dist113.org) in the box. Be sure it says "Can edit."

Every time you share a section of your paper, I will make comments on it. You should read these and make any changes I suggest. Some will be simple (spelling, punctuation, grammar), but others might require you to do more research if your original responses were incomplete.

Monday, April 8 – list your sources and do #1) description of instrument

Monday, April 15 – #2 and 3) invention and development

Monday, April 22 – #4) famous players

The final paper is due on Monday, April 29.

Good luck!