

Words and Music

Hi Sophomore music, this is the beginning of an experiment to explore the relationship between words and music. Here's how it works: each week, each of us writes one page, between 250-300 words, much like this page. You can include a title if you like, but don't write any less or any more than one page. This is a creative constraint, a challenge to compose your thoughts as clearly and carefully as you can in a limited amount of space. Bring a print copy of your page with you to practicum on Monday morning. Then, on Wednesday, I'll return your page to you with a new prompt, based on what you've written over the past week. So the cadence is: new prompt on Wednesday, bring your page the following Monday.

The first prompt will be the same for us all. It is: describe your earliest memory of music. I hesitate to give any more direction than that, because it's intended as a very open-ended prompt. What sorts of things, I wonder, will be involved in such a memory, in trying to recall it, in trying to write about it? We'll just have to wait until Monday to find out!

If you have any logistical concerns about printing your page each week, please talk to me, and we'll find a solution. Don't include your name on the front of your page. But do hand write your name on the back of your page. Would you believe I've already written 254 words? Luckily I still have space to say that this will be an opportunity to develop a habit of writing, to explore using writing as a medium for thinking, and to reflect on our shared project of trying to understand more about this mysterious thing called music.