

Musical Elements

Musical Element	Questions to think about:
Articulation	Do you hear crisp, jagged articulations or soft and smooth ones?
Beat	Is the beat steady or does it change? If it changes, how often and how suddenly does the beat change?
Duration	Do you hear long and sustained notes or short quick ones?
Dynamics	Is the music soft or loud? Does the volume change or remain constant? If it changes, how often and how suddenly does the volume change? Do you hear sections of crescendo or decrescendo?
Form	What is the structure of the piece? For example: binary (AB), ternary (ABA), Rondo (ABACADA), theme and variations, 12 bar blues, verse/chorus.
Harmony	Do you hear a lead voice with accompaniment or do you hear multiple parts of equal importance? Do you hear a predominantly major or minor tonality?
Meter	What is the time signature of the piece? Does the time signature change? If so, how often does the time signature change?
Pitch	Do you hear high notes, low notes, or a combination of different registers? What type of scales do you hear?
Rhythm	Do you hear rhythms that are simple or complex? Do you hear much syncopation? Are there many different rhythms or one or two predominant ones?
Tempo	Is the tempo slow, fast, or somewhere in between? Does the tempo speed up or slow down? If it changes, how often does the tempo change?
Texture	Do you hear one single instrument, a few instruments or many instruments layered together? Does the texture change throughout the piece?
Timbre	What instruments, or combinations of instruments, do you hear? How might you describe the tone colour of the music?