

New York City College of Technology  
 Writing Across the Curriculum and The Learning Center  
 Effective Grading Strategies Faculty Workshop  
 December 10, 2013

Slide 9

Minimal Marking: Avoid comments on material that will be removed (Sommers 150)

Every year <sup>wordy - be precise</sup> [on one Sunday in the middle of January] <sup>which Sunday?</sup> tens of millions of <sup>comma needed</sup> people <sup>word choice</sup> cancel all events, plans or work to watch the Super Bowl. This audience includes <sup>wordy</sup> [little boys and girls, old people, and housewives and men.] <sup>Be specific - what reasons?</sup> Many reasons have been given to explain why the Super Bowl has become so popular <sup>and why?</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>what spots?</sup> commercial (spots cost up to \$100,000.00. One explanation is that people like to take sides and root for a team. <sup>awkward</sup> Another is that some people like the pageantry and excitement of the event. These reasons alone, however, do not explain <sup>too colloquial</sup> a happening as big as the Super Bowl.

*you need to do more research*

*This paragraph needs to be expanded in order to be more interesting to a reader.*

Slide 11:  
Supportive Responding (Walk 34):

Associations unite people of similar interests, and are therefore an important component in a participatory government.

Associations function <sup>in Tocqueville's view</sup> to teach citizens "the habits of acting together in the affairs of daily life" (514). In this way, citizens not only enjoy the benefits of sharing the common bond of living in a community, but they also prepare themselves through the experience for self-government.

Attribute quotations more clearly, like this

What happens to self-interested citizens in this scheme?

This is an excellent point. Here (as elsewhere) you could strengthen your argument by adding an example. Maybe the NAACP?

**Group Exercise:**

Pens down—read the paper to yourself without making any marks or comments. Then, together with your group:

1. Read the piece out loud (one paragraph per person, for example).
2. Description of text: Make one non-judgmental, descriptive observation. It should be something we would all agree on (e.g., “the writer uses a quote”; “there are five paragraphs,” etc.)
3. Note one thing the writer does well.
4. Identify an idea you found provocative or interesting that you would like the writer to think about further.
5. Identify one or two patterns of error.
6. Drawing on previous observations, compose a comment for the student that will promote revision and move the paper forward.

**Original Assignment:**

Compare what Aaron Copland says about modern melody (p. 245 of *What to Listen For in Music*) with what Arnold Schoenberg says about modern melody (p. 101-102 of “New Music: My Music”). How do these two composers agree? How do they disagree? Provide two different examples from the 20th century that illustrate each of their opinions on melody (the example does not have to be by Schoenberg or Copland). Finally, what does Copland mean by the following statement, and how does it relate to your two examples?

“The uninitiated music lover will continue to find contemporary music peculiar so long as he persists in trying to hear the same kinds of sounds or derive the same species of musical enjoyment that he gets from the great works of past masters (245).”

This paper should be 1-3 pages of double-spaced 12 point font. The best answers will use specific musical terminology and reference specific parts of pieces.

**Student Paper:**

Copland and Schoenberg both explain their opinions on why audiences have difficulty adjusting to the experimental changes in contemporary music. Most people want to find comfort in the music they listen to by looking for the consonances that they are accustomed to. Contemporary composers are now challenging listeners to look for different elements in music to bring them the same type of fulfillment. Modern music now strives to stir something inside of the listener, to make them act or to challenge them to think. Modern composers commonly use more dissonance than composers of the past in order to get new reactions from their works. Modern audiences will continue to find music of this day in age strange and peculiar as long as they look for the same elements that brought them comfort and joy from the past. Our audiences need to be trained in the new musical vocabulary of the day if they want to appreciate music's evolution. The best way to train your ears to these different frequencies of sound is through repetition. With multiple listens of the hearing dissonances, your ears will slowly adjust and begin to find comfort in these new sounds.

What Aaron Copland was trying to say in his quote is that audiences must seek for new elements of music to enjoy because of new route contemporary music has taken. The two composers both agree that audiences will shift their expectations if they wish to enjoy the nuances of contemporary music. They seem to both have unique points of view about these changes but do not necessarily disagree with one another.

In Schoenberg's "Mondestrunken" and "Nacht", the composer explores how to create melodies with dissonances to depict dark and dreary themes. Audiences probably did not like dissonance in these two works initially but I'm sure that they gained more

appreciation by later audiences. As people become more accustomed to these new sounds, people will soon see the visions of these radical composers.

### References

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