

## Video Essay Checklist

Create a video essay that will educate your audience on a chosen topic.

- Choose a topic:
  - Is there a composer you want to celebrate?
  - A style or composition technique you want to explore?
  - An era of musical history you want to bring to life?
- Research your topic. Choose the pieces you will focus on, and make notes about each piece's significance. Decide on the order they will be presented in. Think about:
  - Creating a biography of a composer's career. What music influenced them? What pieces did they compose at the beginning and end of their career? How did their style develop over time?
  - Demonstrating the development/use of a technique. When did this technique become popular? How was it used in history? How is it used today?
  - Showing the history of a musical era from start to finish. Who were the prominent composers of the era? How did they influence each other? How did the political, environmental, and social issues of the era influence the music? Who were the people who enjoyed this music?
- Make a practice plan to learn your songs.
- Write your video script. Think about:
  - What type of narration will you use? Will you speak directly to the camera? How can you use visual elements like documentary footage, illustrations, simple animations, or puppets to bring your topic to life? Will you create your visual elements yourself, or commission work from a local artist?
- Decide on a video title and set a premiere date with your teacher.
- Record your performances and any additional elements (narration, visuals, etc.)
- Edit your video using whatever video editing software you're comfortable with. Here's a list of free editing softwares you can use:
  - iMovie (for Mac)
  - Adobe Rush (available as a free trial)

- Openshot
- Make a thumbnail or title card.
- Write a video description that includes:
  - The title of your video
  - Your name and instrument (and any collaborator's name and instrument)
  - List of the pieces you're going to perform (and the composer, if known)
  - A paragraph summarizing the subject of your video.
- Ask your teacher to fill out the announcement form in advance of your video premiere.
- Export your video as an mp4 file. Ask your teacher to submit your video to Orpheus for uploading to YouTube.

**★ PROFESSIONAL GUIDELINES**

- Make sure your video is horizontal, stable, and well lit.
- Make sure there is no background noise in your video.
- Record your best playing.
- Everyone on-screen should be focused, happy, and presentable.
- When editing your music, let the final note ring out completely. Don't cut off the end of your song too early.
- If you're including pictures or videos that you did not create yourself, only use content that is in the "[public domain](#)." Using original material is best.
- Download the official Orpheus "end-screen" and place it at the end of your video. [Download HERE](#) (or ask your teacher).
- Make sure your Thumbnail or Title card is landscape and has a high resolution. YouTube recommends that your thumbnail be 1280×720 pixels.
- If you commissioned work from a local artist make sure you provide appropriate compensation and credit to the artist.
- Cite your sources! Tell folks where you got your info, and where they can learn more.