

FIND OUT MORE... writing a review

Your school has a special day in July when it is going to be visited by a Brass Band. We think you'll love it! British Brass Bands are traditional, musical ensembles that include a wide variety of brass instruments and percussion. The music that they play is really varied, from operatic overtures to pop music.

The band may play a variety of music to entertain you, but we can also learn a lot from the music that you hear.

This activity is about responding to the music by writing a review. There are lots of different jobs in 'the arts'. You don't have to grow up to be a professional musician if you learn to play an instrument. You don't have to become a professional artist if you are good at painting or drawing. There are lots of jobs that support the arts sector that are really interesting and one of those is to write reviews of arts experiences - going to a concert, listening to an album, visiting an art gallery or even interviewing a performer or composer. This job is called a 'critic'.

Your task is to write a review of the performance of the Brass Band that has visited your school. The review can be shared on your school website, in your school newsletter, or even on social media. It would be good to share it with the band so that they have an idea of how well received they were when they visited you. The Brass Foundations team would also love to read your reviews and they can be sent to the team at the following email addresses:

Sheila Allen - sheila@bbe.org.uk - Warwickshire

Paul Fisher - paul.fisher@bbe.org.uk - Hertfordshire

Paul McLaughlin - paul.mclaughlin@bbe.org.uk - Gloucestershire

Helen Minshall - helen@bbe.org.uk - Manchester

Deirdre Waller-Box - deirdre@bbe.org.uk - London / Hertfordshire



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What should you include?

1. An introduction explaining the situation.
Why is the band there - what's the occasion?
2. Always write in the first person - Use 'I'.
3. Start with the positive things about what you have experienced. Mention the negative aspects, but unless they are really terrible, try not to make too much of a big deal about them.
4. Be as descriptive as you can, using a wide variety of vocabulary and sentence construction. This will make it more interesting to read.
5. Did other people around you seem to be enjoying experience too. How do you know? What evidence was there of this?
6. Write a new paragraph for each piece of music (if there is enough to write about for each piece of music. If there isn't, group paragraphs according to content.
7. Weigh up the experience and summarise it. Try not to be too biased either way unless the evidence presented is overwhelmingly one way or the other. How many marks out of ten would you give it?
8. Would you recommend this experience to other schools? Might it be fun to be part of a Brass Band?

What kind of words can you use describe what you have heard and seen ?

The following musical vocabulary may help you get started

- Volume / Dynamics*
- Conductor**
- Ensemble**
- Harmony*
- Melody**
- Rhythms*
- Tempo**
- Drum Kit**
- Cornets**
- Basses**
- Trombones**
- Tenor Horns**
- Euphoniums and Baritones**
- Compère**
- Uniforms*
- Banners**

