



& Back to Composition

Use the steps outlined below as a template for each month's Create a Composition assignment, applying a different creative writing prompt each month. Compositions can be as simple as a short 8-bar melody, or as in-depth as a full score or arrangement with lyrics. Use the Compose app in SmartMusic to notate your composition, and the Sharing feature to submit your composition to your teacher.



Step 1: Creative Meditation

Spend a few minutes in silence with your eyes closed, taking deep breaths, and clearing your mind. Having a calm, undistracted mind will help you access your natural creativity. For a free guided meditation for creativity, visit [Headspace](#).

How many minutes did you spend meditating? _____



Step 2: Seek Inspiration (Imagine)

Read the composition prompt. The creative ideas, concepts, and feelings that influence musicians' work emerge from a variety of sources. Does the prompt remind you of a song, movie, piece of art, book, person, place, or memory? What sounds, colors, or words move you? Engage yourself in whatever activity brings inspiration. What ideas come to mind?



Step 3: Develop an Idea (Plan and Make)

Choose an idea that resulted from the previous step and consider ways of communicating it through music notation. Your creative choices are influenced by your musical knowledge and expressive intent. What musical elements will help bring your ideas to life? Are there any keys, melodic patterns, dynamics, rhythms, or harmonies that support your idea?



Step 4: Compose (Create)

In SmartMusic, navigate to the Compose app and select **Quick creation** to open a new, blank notation document. Enter the notes, rhythms, articulations, and dynamics that help bring your ideas to life. For the complete Compose user manual, [click here](#).



Step 5: Reflection (Evaluate and Refine)

Musicians evaluate and refine their work through openness to new ideas, persistence, and the application of appropriate criteria. Listen to your composition using the playback in Compose. Consider any musical edits or changes that might help improve the quality of your work.

Please answer the following questions:

- What was the main source of inspiration for this work?
- What creative decisions did you make that helped bring the idea to life?
- Upon listening and reflecting, what changes did you make to the composition (if any)?



Step 6: Share your creation (Present)

To submit your composition to your teacher, click the blue Sharing icon on the left side of the page. You will be prompted to name your composition, and save it to your SmartMusic account. Next, select **Share File Privately** and enter your teacher's email address, or select **Public Share Link** to be taken to the Content Manager where you can copy a public access link to send to your teacher. To learn more on how to use Sharing, see our Help Center article [Sharing music with Compose – SmartMusic](#).