

The Letter

You will write a **formal letter** to an IJHS staff member in response to his/her personal statement about music. In your letter, you will either agree or disagree with their statement. You will use information from the unit on Jazz music in order to get your point across clearly.

1. **Choose** one of the following quotes.

- “There is no bad music. Music is what makes YOU happy. It makes your feet tap, your face smile, your soul sing.”
- “To create an original piece of music and put it out there for the world to hear takes courage, motivation, and talent.”
- “You should listen to music that fills you from head to toe with a feeling of joy and rejuvenation!”
- “The creation of music is therapy for our souls. Whether we are beginners on an instrument or experts, music is a language which can bring out our emotions in unforeseen ways.”
- “The Beatles are the best rock band of all time.”
- “I love music that makes me smile and makes me want to dance whatever genre it is!”
- “Rap is crap.”
- “There is too much good music in the world to limit yourself to just one type.”
- “Sometimes the music someone else makes speaks the words your heart cannot express.”
- “You don’t have to know a lot about music to like what you hear.”
- “Music touches the soul and brings rhythm to life.”
- “Music is an emotional force: it helps motivate, inspire, soothe, and relax.”
- “Music enhances every aspect of life that it touches. It makes life High Def. Invest in music, and you are investing in enhancing your life experiences.”
- “Music helps us connect with the past, and have hope for the future.”
- “I live with a musician. My house rocks everyday!”
- “The best songs bring back good memories.”
- “I love music...especially by Justin Timberlake. :) It can instantly brighten my mood.”
- “Music is like your best friend - cheers you up when your down, keeps you company, helps you learn, helps you heal, expresses your feelings.”
- “I love just about all music. It is a reflection on the feelings and energy I have at the time I'm listening. If you really listen to the music and what it takes to make it, then I believe you will have a greater appreciation for music of all genres.”
- “Music touches my heart, my soul and my feet. It makes me smile and makes me cry. It makes me think. It makes me feel loved. And it makes me DANCE!”
- “Music can calm. Music can enlighten. Music can confuse. Music can frustrate. Music can deepen understanding. Music should be cherished.”
- “Music has the power to change your mood, influence your thoughts, send a message, make peace, inspire hope and can change the world.”

(As I watched the horrors of the attacks in Paris, I was so moved by the crowds of people who sang the French National Anthem while exiting the soccer stadium. It reminded me of the Congressmen and women who stood on the front steps of the Capitol after 9/11 and sang, "God Bless America." Music brings peace, hope, and love in times of great need!)
- “Music makes memories, tells a story, and writes history. I love listening to songs from the past that bring back memories from my life or lyrics from songs from different decades. Music and history have a strong bond.”

The Letter

2. **Write** a letter to _____ supporting or refuting their statement using evidence and information from our unit on Jazz music. Facts and quotes should be used to support or negate the statement. Also, personal experiences and opinions should also be used BUT must be used appropriately.

3. **Format**

- Default font
- Default spacing
- Use your personal address for yourself and the school's address for the teacher
Independence Junior High School
6610 West Highland Drive
Palos Heights, IL 60463
- 3 paragraphs in length, each paragraph should be a minimum of 6 to 8 complete and coherent sentences (avoid being redundant)
 - ★First Body Paragraph:
 - explain why you chose that quote
 - explain what you liked and/or did not like about the statement
 - ★Second Body Paragraph:
 - link the statement to the unit content
 - use at least one quote from the packet and other facts from the unit
 - ★Third Body Paragraph:
 - create a personal connection
 - the last sentence should be a statement that responds to the question: "What is music to you?"
- Standard letter writing format applies (choose a formal letter template located the Stationary category in Pages)
- Use at least one quote from the Jazz packet (there are several excellent quotes by Duke Ellington in "The Art is in the Cooking")
- Support your statements using facts/information/quotes from the Jazz packet
- Give a personal connection
- Vary sentence structure, use transitions, etc.

4. **Proof-read** your letter. **Print** it. **Sign** it.

Your letter is due on: _____

The Letter

	1	2	3	4
Format	- does not follow format specification	- follows some of the format specifications	- follows most of the format specifications	- clearly follows format specification
Writing Conventions	- write shows little control of standard writing conventions	- enough conventional inaccuracies to distract the reader from the point	- minor errors in sentence structure, spelling, and punctuation	- uses complete sentences - correct spelling - correct punctuation
Ideas	- key points unrelated to the topic - offers no facts to support the point - does not use a direct quote	- lists facts with little elaboration - does not use a direct quote	- develops points clearly with some specific details - uses one direct quote	- uses at least one quote - uses information from Jazz packet - clearly defends or disproves the quote
Organization	- no organizational pattern - no paragraphing - no transitions - does not vary sentence structure	- structure is difficult to follow - no or little paragraphing - transitions are simplistic	- basic structure is evident - most paragraphing is appropriate - uses transitions	- clear beginning, middle, and end - uses excellent transitions - varies sentence structure
Voice	- response does not answer questions - response is off topic - personal connection is completely absent	- analysis is shallow - little to no personal connection - response shows little thought	- student opinion is included but not completely clear - response is thoughtful but lacks depth	- clearly expresses your personal opinion about music - thoughtful response and analysis is included in the letter

TOTAL: _____ /20 x 3 = _____ /60

NAME: _____