

## Step Four - Listening Guides

For **each** of the pieces that you have chosen in step one you will create a comprehensive listening guide.

Successful listening guides dig deep and expose the music more fully than step 3 - but if you have done step three in a thoughtful and exemplary fashion - step four is a breeze.

Use listening guide blanks on the Website.



Each listening guide will likely require 3-4 pages.

Identify correctly describe the melody, tempo, meter, tonality, instrumentation and form.

Plan on a new frame every 15 to 20 seconds to reflect the changes.

There are example listening guides available on the website.

### Songs with lyrics-

Copy the lyrics into the listening guide blank.

Use the timing column to show when the lyrics and musical events happen.

Time	Text	Musical Elements	Instrumentation
0:00	(Intro):	Very dark and mysterious. No meter going on yet but the tone is minor and the melody is rough.	Synth
0:12	(Chorus): Pour up (Drank), head shot (Drank) Sit down (Drank), stand up (Drank) Pass out (Drank), wake up (Drank) Faded (Drank), faded (Drank)	Meter starts to develop as a double simple. Vocals seem moderato. The Synth is very loud.	Synth Vocals percussion
0:26	(Verse 1): Now I done grew up 'round some people livin' their life in bottles Granddaddy had the golden flask, backstroke every day in Chicago Some people like the way it feels, some people wanna kill their sorrows Some people wanna fit in with the popular, that was my problem	Vocals become more loud adding to the loud synth  Everything still stays distorted. Texture seems homophony and the rhythm is active and forte.	Synth Vocals Distorted Tambourine

You may split verses and/or choruses into more than one frame

If portions of the melody are sung with background vocals - underline or boldface the melody where the vocals occur.

Kickin' your can all over the place

Singin'

We will we will rock you

We will we will rock you

in the instrumentation column indicate background vocals.

Songs without lyrics-

Use the right listening guide blank.

Time	Musical Elements	Instrumentation
:00	Theme A: Minor, duple simple, Piano solo tempo adagio, dynamics mezzo piano, mezzo forte, minor	Piano
:31	Theme A1: Piano is joined by violin, tempo and dynamics stay the same and piano gets replaced by drum at :39,	Piano Drum Violin (cello)
1:02	Theme A2: Violin dynamics change to ff, while drum still plays in the background do you hear the countermelody that goes downward almost immediately at 1:02? who is playing it	Drum Violin more instruments here
1:16	Theme A3: Changes to Major,(nope) same tempo and dynamics	Drum Violin what else is added in this frame Listen with headphones

In the instrumentation column you may wish to include timings which let the reader know where the changes occur.

Think of instrumental music from small to large

phrase (question/Answer)

theme

variation A A1, A2

transition

Think in terms of accompaniment (background) and Melody or theme - (foreground.)

Piano Music

Think Right hand vs. left hand

Melody vs Accompaniment

How do you describe what is happening?

## Headphones / Speakers

if you normally listen via headphones, listen using speakers -  
you will hear things differently.

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you will hear something differently.

## Rewind repeat rewind repeat

your ability to hear changes will be enhanced.

## But what if I don't know what instruments are playing?

If you can- find a live video of performance.

Have an instrumentalist check your work

## But what if it's all electronic?

Identify the layers using vocabulary that describes the sound

Bass - Synth bass

piano- Synth piano

Strings - Synth Strings

Brass - Synth Brass

Woodwinds - Synth woodwinds

If you cannot find the right words use your own vocabulary to describe the sound.

## Repeated patterns that are melodic, but not the main melody?

Ostinatos - Instrumental or vocal

loops -

## Questions?

Ask, ask, ask.