

End of Year Music Teacher Survival Guide:

Teacher Directions for End of the Year Compositions

End of the Year Compositions:

I keep all of the compositions I do with my kiddos in common time.

Color Compositions:

- So for this composition I raid the home depot and lowes paint samples section. I grab a bunch of color cards... I try to get the ones that have 4 options on them. Then I hand students 2-3 cards and they choose 6 different color names off of the cards.
- I love to put up a Rhythm Key for my students to remind them of the notes that we know and how many beats each one is if I feel like it will help them along. Perhaps there were certain classes that you lost teaching time with due to schedules and such. These students could use the extra double check for their rhythms.
- With instruments and props section, I left this part vague intentionally and I usually give my students a variety of instruments and variety of props and they get to decide how they are going to use them. During this time make sure to help students make good choices. If you see a group pick too much help them to edit their choices because you don't want them to get overwhelmed. Remind students to start small and then if their practicing is going well they add on if they want.

Form Compositions:

- Students are to create 3 8 beat phrases. One for the A section, one for the B section and one for the C section. I have students write in the bar lines, treble clef and end sign or repeat sign.
- Then students create a form. I tell them there has to be 3 sections because they have to perform each rhythm, however, they can go up to 5 sections for their form.
- I encourage students to do this with a partner and they are to choose 2 unpitched percussion instruments. One instrument plays one section, the other instrument plays another section and then the last section left, both instruments play that rhythm together.
- If a student doesn't have a partner, the teacher is their partner for the performance.

Name Game Composition:

- Students really enjoy this composition because they can just use names from their families or some choose character names from their favorite tv shows or movies like a theme.
- Then students figure out the rhythms to the names and then use the names in the composition below. Once again I have students write the bar lines, a treble clef and then either an end sign or repeat sign.

Recorder Composition:

- For recorder composition, we first start by filling in the key of notes and rests for the number of beats. Then we add notes that we learned that year. 3rd grade learns the dotted half note and the triplet. Then in 4th grade we learn the set of sixteenth notes. In 5th grade we learn the single eighth and pair of sixteenth note patterns.
- Students write the rhythm. I ask my students to write the number of beats above the notes and then they write the pitch they want to use with that note below.
- Finally students put their notes on the staff and then play it on the recorder.
- Students are not allowed to have their recorders until the notes are on the staff. When they decide on pitches and they come to get checked, I play what they wrote on my own recorder and they decide if they want to change anything or if they are happy with the melody.