

CONSTRUCTING AND WRITING AN ARTICLE FOR THE MASSACHUSETTS MUSIC NEWS

ABOUT THE MMN

- o The MMN is the “official publication” of the Massachusetts Music Educators’ Association
- o The MMN is published quarterly (Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer)
- o The MMN reaches 1700 MMEA members, as well as collegiate chapters and State, Divisional, and National MENC leaders



THE PURPOSE OF THE MMN

- o The purpose of the *MMN* is to: “serve the music educators of the state to the greatest extent possible”

Additionally, the MMN will:

- o Support teacher development by publishing provocative articles that enable readers to personally evaluate their own policies and assess their own practices
- o Provide opportunities for professional growth by soliciting articles written by state educators and pertaining to music education

SUGGESTED STEPS IN WRITING AN ARTICLE

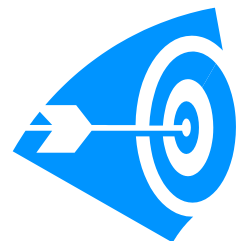


Determine the direction of your article:

- o Consider your “Target audience”
 - This should consist of your primary peer group, and will evolve over time
- o Consider your strengths
 - What do you know about that others might be interested in learning
- o Consider possible topics to share
 - Topic should be engaging to a large portion of your target audience

Narrow your focus:

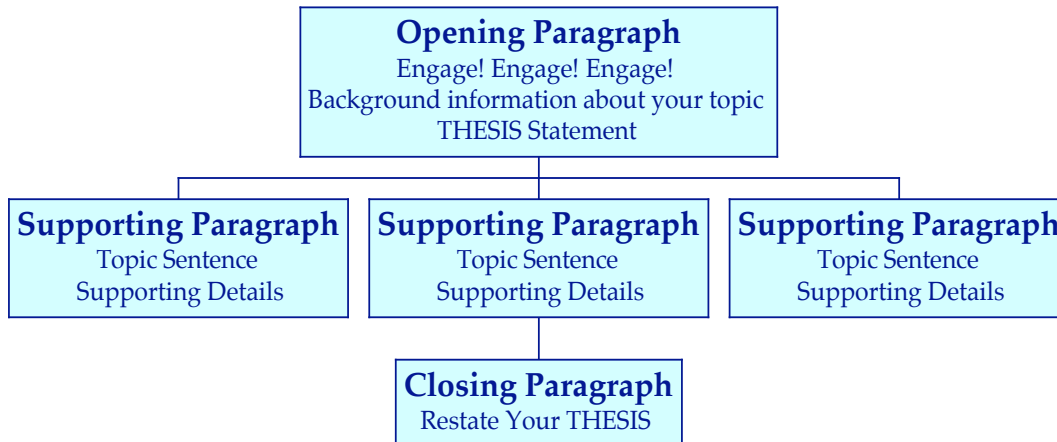
- o Choose the exact topic
 - Plan to cover only some aspects so you can fully support your ideas with details
- o Create a “Thesis”
 - This will be the point you will demonstrate (i.e. argue) in your article
 - Be sure all your supporting details will enhance your opinion/Thesis



Plan your Article:

- o Plan the evidence you will use to support your thesis
- o Decide how many paragraphs you will need, and where each piece of evidence will fall

A Well Planned Article



The Writing Process:

- o Begin writing: let your outline be your guide
- o Review: be sure you are using clear, conversational language
- o Be engaging: talk directly to the reader, and use anecdotes when possible

Submitting your work:

- o Be sure to check the MMN for deadlines and meet them (or better yet, be early)
- o Send your article as an email attachment (Be sure to save work with an extension)
- o Let me know by email if material is time-sensitive
- o Send a follow up email if you do not receive confirmation



Final thoughts:

- o Be prepared to edit work after it is submitted; don't take this personally
- o Send photos, illustrations, or musical examples (in finale/notepad or as pdf) if at all possible
- o Consider contacting the department or FOCUS editors to write for a specific section or issue...your article will have a much greater chance of being included quickly
- o Don't be discouraged if your article is not printed right away...there are many submissions, and very limited pages