

I can analyze the process of composing.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BytUY_AwTUs

In this video, American singer, songwriter, and producer Ben Folds composes a song with the National Symphony Orchestra in just 10 minutes. Watch the video at least 3 times and complete these tasks. Use music vocabulary in your work. (Note that sometimes you have choice in which questions you answer.)

These are steps in the process of composing—the same steps you can use to create your own music.	
Make up some musical ideas.	Describe 3 of the musical phrases Ben created (such as what was the rhythm, for which instrument section, use of repetition?). _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
Develop the ideas into a composition, including expressive elements.	Describe 2 expressive elements that were used (such as specific articulation or dynamics). _____ _____ _____
Revise the composition into a completed work.	What changes did Ben make? In the final performance, how could you tell the end was coming? _____ _____ _____

Answer question 1 or 2.

1. What skills did the orchestra musicians bring to this creation?

2. If you were one of the musicians in the orchestra, what would you be thinking during this process?

Ben Folds Fun Facts!

- Ben grew up in North Carolina and was listening to the music of Billy Joel and Elton John from a young age.
- When he was in high school, Ben played piano, bass, and drums in various bands.
- He attended the University of Florida on a percussion scholarship but didn't graduate.
- In 1994, he formed the alternative rock band Ben Folds Five. Ben was the vocalist and played piano.
- Ben has had a variety career as a performer in rock bands, as a soloist, and with symphony orchestras. He was also a judge for five seasons on the NBC show "The Sing Off."
- Ben Folds is an avid photographer and a strong advocate for arts education in our public schools.

I recognize that music is influenced by its context.

Choose 3 of the questions below to answer.

1. Ben Folds has had many musical experiences through his life time. Describe how one of these experiences shows in this composition.

2. Ben makes composing look easy. What is one musical skill he has that made this possible?

3. If you were in the audience for this piece, what would you be thinking during this process?

4. How did this experience seem to bring the people in the audience together?

5. At 9:54 of the video (the final performance), what does the sound of the music remind you of? Explain.

+	✓	-
Insightful analysis with good details; Music vocabulary used appropriately	Mostly reasonable analysis with some level of details; Mostly appropriate use of music vocabulary	Major details are overlooked in the analysis; Major errors in use of music vocabulary <i>Or</i> Incomplete