

iScore Planning Cycle for Composition

Sample 1: Intermediate

Category	Feature	Instruction/ Definition	Example(s)
General Goals		Summarize here what you aim to improve about your musical abilities and experiences.	Overall: I want to be able to compose what I hear in my head without first having to play it on my instrument.
			Specific: I'd like to compose a set of three songs for voice and piano by the end of the year.
Task Description	Task Description	Explain briefly what you are working on here. Keep the description and the task specific.	Compose a song for mezzo-soprano and piano.
	Criteria	Describe what is required to accomplish your task successfully.	The voice part is within the mezzo-soprano range and balances well with the piano part.
Goals	Task Goals	Describe what you want to accomplish through this task.	I hope that my friend who is a singer will enjoy performing this song and that both she and the pianist will be able to read and interpret it based on my notation.
	Supporting Tasks	Supporting tasks can be used if you need to break down a broad task goal into more manageable units.	1) Analyze some art songs, studying the vocal range and texture. 2) Recite the poem out loud to experience the natural "prose rhythm" of the words. 3) Block out the harmonic progressions first, and then

			<p>experiment with textures and figurations for the piano part.</p> <p>4) Send short sections of the song to my friend and see if they are comfortable for her to sing.</p>
	Strategies	Describe how you intend to work towards achieving your goal.	<p>1) Sing each phrase after I write it to ensure that the rhythm of the vocal line is composed to fit with the text.</p> <p>2) Keep the harmony in mind while writing the vocal line.</p> <p>3) Try several different accompaniment patterns before finalizing the piano part.</p>

Sample 1: Advanced

Category	Feature	Instruction/ Definition	Example(s)
General Goals		Summarize here what you aim to improve about your musical abilities and experiences.	Overall: I would like to start to develop my individual voice as a composer.
			Specific: I need to gain more familiarity with different instruments and orchestration techniques.

Task Description	Task Description	Explain briefly what you are working on here. Keep the description and the task specific.	Write a violin solo.
	Criteria	Describe what is required to accomplish your task successfully.	It sounds the way I imagine it to sound when a violinist plays it.
Goals	Task Goals	Describe what you want to accomplish through this task.	My violinist friend finds the solo idiomatic, and will choose to perform it on a recital.
	Supporting Tasks	Supporting tasks can be used if you need to break down a broad task goal into more manageable units.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Listen to several violin compositions by composers who were also violinists. 2) Analyze several violin works of similar length and structure. 3) Consult with my friend's violin teacher while I am still in the middle of the composition process.
	Strategies	Describe how you intend to work towards achieving your goal.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Have my violinist friend try out sections of the composition as the piece is progressing for immediate feedback. 2) Write entries in a journal or notebook as I am composing to clarify my intentions in terms of the mood, atmosphere and emotional content of the piece.