



FIORELLO H. LAGUARDIA HIGH SCHOOL OF MUSIC & ART AND PERFORMING ARTS

Deepak Marwah, Principal

100 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, NY 10023 ♦ P (212) 496-0700 ♦ F (212) 724-5748 ♦ LaGuardiaHS.org

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February 5, 2025

Dear Music Studio Senior Families, Students and Staff:

We are in the home stretch of your 2025 Music Commencement Assessment. The two remaining sections are the Reflective Essay, due February 28 and the NYSSMA solo audition on March 21/22! Below is all of the information that you need to complete the Reflective Essay and submit it by 2/28.

Music Commencement Assessment - Reflective Essay

Directions for Reflective Essay

Due Date: Friday, Feb 28, 2025
Length: 2 to 3 Pages
Font: Calibri or Arial
Size: 12 pt.
Spacing: Double
Header: Include a heading at the top left side of EACH PAGE of your essay as per the below:
OSIS
Last Name, First Name
Example:
123456789
Schott, Benjamin

Student Essay Directions:

You must write a reflective essay ***describing and explaining*** your musical journey, that is, how you have grown as a musician over your four years as an active high school musician.

Be sure to:

- ***Describe in detail specific experiences and persons*** who were key catalysts influencing your development **AND**
- Share your insights, ***explaining how these experiences and persons impacted your musical life***, helped shape your identity as a musician, and played an important role in advancing your progress to date.

Please address ALL of the following topics in your essay:

1. How were school concerts and outside performances important in your musical development?
2. Who were the specific teachers and/or musicians who influenced you? How?
3. What were some of your most important successes and challenges you encountered as a musician? Why were they meaningful? How did you respond? How did they help you grow?
4. How has your life and world view been impacted by COVID-19 as well as social, economic, and political happenings from March 2020 to the present? As a young musician, how have you responded?
5. How do you plan to continue your musical growth and participation after you graduate?

Essay outline and Rubric:

- Information can be found in the [2025 Music Commencement Exam Handbook](#)
 - Refer to pages 22-24 for the suggested structure and detailed outline of the reflective essay.
 - Refer to pages 25-26 for the grading rubric for the reflective essay to understand how your essay will be graded.

Directions for Submitting the Reflective Essay:

1. Include a heading at the top left side of EACH PAGE of your essay as per the below:



LAGUARDIA ARTS

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OSIS

Last Name, First Name

Example:

123456789

Schott, Benjamin

2. Save your essay as a PDF and name it with ONLY YOUR LAST NAME.

Example - if I were saving my essay as a PDF it would be named, SCHOTT

3. [Upload your essay by completing this Google form](#)

Please do not hesitate to contact me at Bschoth@schools.nyc.gov if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Schott