

RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT

The Influence of Technology on a Musical Instrument

TASK DESCRIPTION: Create a **PowerPoint Presentation** explaining how technology has influenced the development and construction of a musical instrument of your choice.

Explain ALL of the technological changes that have been made to your instrument throughout history, and mention some of its predecessors. You might need to look back to instruments found in previous centuries.

WHAT TO DO:

1. Choose a musical instrument from one of the following: -
 - a. Guitar
 - b. Trumpet
 - c. Saxophone
 - d. Piano
 - e. Synthesizer
 - f. Drum kit
 - g. Violin
 - h. Organ
 - i. Other ideas? → Speak to your teacher
2. Research your chosen instrument using the Internet, encyclopaedias, recordings, textbooks and any other resources you can find. Keep a record of your raw data so that you can easily find it when you put together your presentation.
3. Your presentation should include: -
 - a. a title slide
 - b. clearly labelled pictures or video of your instrument
 - c. description of materials used to make the instrument
 - d. how the instrument is made (the construction process)
 - e. a brief history of the development of the instrument
 - f. information about the inventors
 - g. clearly labelled audio examples of music that use the instrument
 - h. bibliography, including any website, book and audio references
4. Organise your information logically by preparing a draft storyboard ON PAPER, showing what will be included on each slide. Your presentation should be about 6-8 slides long – one slide for each of the above points
5. Prepare your slideshow presentation using Microsoft PowerPoint
6. Present your slideshow to the class using a data projector

EXAMPLE: Let's take the guitar. What instrument was used before the guitar (eg the lute)? What did the first guitar look like? What was it made of and who made it? How is it made? What other developments have there been – acoustic, electric, bass guitars, etc? What changes have been made to it and why were they made. How is the guitar constructed and put together? You would also have to find pictures and audio examples of the guitar.

Similarly for the trumpet, you would have to find out about instruments such as the sackbut and the introduction of valves to the instrument.

Hints for creating impressive PowerPoint Presentations

The idea of this presentation is not only to learn about the development of an instrument, but to also learn how to create a effective and professional looking presentation. This will be achieved by following some simple guidelines.

- 🔊 Keep backgrounds, fonts and colours the same for all slides
- 🔊 Always use point form – no more than about 4-5 points on a slide. YOU MUST TALK ABOUT EACH POINT YOU HAVE INCLUDED. Don't just read what you have typed
- 🔊 Take it easy with animation and sound effects – don't animate everything as too much can be annoying and unprofessional. Make sure that there is a reason for using sounds, for instance, as examples.
- 🔊 Each slide should present / explain one particular point – like a paragraph in an essay. It should have only information relevant to the current point. Graphics and examples should be clearly labelled and be arranged in a logical way.

Resources

- 🔊 There are many useful links documented in the Music Technology Class website (www.teachers.ash.org.au/ozmused/mtclass.htm).
 - "Music Links" page - *References* and *Instruments* sections
 - "Technology in Learning" page - *References* section
- 🔊 Encyclopaedia CD-ROMS – you might have Encarta at home
- 🔊 Musical Instruments CD-ROM (see Mr. Wilkins)
- 🔊 Create your own audio examples from your CD's

Marking Scale

CRITERIA	NO. OF POINTS	YOUR SCORE
Storyboard	1	
Title slide	1	
Labelled pictures	1	
Materials used	2	
Construction process	2	
History and development	3	
Inventors	2	
Audio examples	1	
Bibliography	2	
TOTAL	15	/15