

Group Task Description

The Blues

1. Read and discuss:
 - Blues History Article (handout)
 - Blues Impact Article (handout)
 - Blues Flow Chart (handout)
2. Listen to and analyze the performance examples:
 - *Nobody Loves Me But My Mother* – B.B. King (Example for class)
 - *The Sky is Crying* – Stevie Ray Vaughn
 - *Pride and Joy* – Bonnie Raitt
3. If time allows, read the essay, *Delta Blues Music*, by David Evans
4. Your group presentation should describe the Blues as performed in the examples.
5. You should also be able to say how the articles you read showed the contribution of the blues to America's music.

Group Task Description

Gospel Music

1. Read and discuss:
 - Black Gospel Music Article
 - Gospel Music Evolution Article
 - Gospel Historical Time Line
2. Listen to and analyze the performance examples:
 - *The Shepherd Song*, Myles Family
 - *When I Rose This Morning* – Mississippi Mass Choir
 - *Brighter Day* – Kirk Franklin
3. If time allows, listen to the audio story on the History of Gospel Music, by Robert Darden
4. Your group presentation should describe Gospel music as performed in the examples.
5. You should also be able to say how the articles you read showed the contribution of Gospel music to America's music.

Group Task Description

Visual Art

Read and discuss the article about the American artist, Bennie Andrews.

1. Look at the artworks included with the handout. For each art work, use your powers of observation to look slowly and closely. Then, answer the following questions:
 - What do you notice? Imagine using all your senses. What do you recognize?
 - What does this image remind you of? What is going on? What other meanings could there be?
 - What feeling do you get from the image? Is there a mood?
 - What does the image make you wonder about? What more do you want to know?
2. Your group's presentation should help fellow students grasp what the artist is expressing about the blues, and why he has chosen the blues as a theme for his works.
3. Your presentation should show how the artist and his works reflect American music and culture.

Group Task Description

Poetry

1. Read and discuss:
 - Langston Hughes Bio article
 - The Blues and Langston Hughes
2. View the video about Langston Hughes from the Biography.com web site.
3. As a group, or individually, choose a "problem" or topic, and create a blues poem of at least three stanzas that follows the format described in the article. Use the examples in the article as a model for your poem(s).
4. Your presentation should include information about Langston Hughes, and his place as an American poet.
5. Refine and rehearse the poem(s) you wrote in your group to present a spoken word performance of your original poetry. Decide if you will read the poem(s) as a group, or in a reader's theatre format, with some people having a solo line, and other lines repeated by all. You may also choose to sing your poem.