

**So You Do it All? Ideas for the General Music Classroom –
Focus on Technology**

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Part One:

A sixth grade lesson example focusing on “Theme and Variations” using technology.

- I. Board work for students entering class using notation.
- II. Learn a chant and movement variations.
- III. Create your own improvisation to the chant.
- IV. Perform other groups’ improvisations.
- V. Discuss Theme and Variation.
- VI. Refresh solfege to “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”.
- VII. Review Mozart’s basic information.
- VIII. Hear his version of “Twinkle, Twinkle” performed by a child pianist.
- IX. Notate “Twinkle, Twinkle” on the board. Play this on recorder.
- X. Brainstorm how this could be changed as variations.
- XI. Listen to two examples of the use of this melody.
- XII. Compare/contrast these versions.

Enhancement: break into groups to create variations using recorder. OR, transfer to barred instruments and create variations. Put together in theme and variations form. Perform.

Part Two:

Activities that work OR keeping the hands and minds busy in a productive way!

- I. Stomp activity. Given boxes of similar items, groups create their own piece of music. Perform for class. Evaluate (using rubric?)
- II. Literature! Using a book, students compose songs and orchestrate the story. Perform. Evaluate.
- III. Pop Music. See example of a booklet I put together to cover pop genres. Students read about the genre, then watch an example of

that genre, doing the activity in the book while listening/watching. Students rate their likes/dislikes. Classes take averages and graph results to compare to other classes.

- IV. Using plastic containers of all sizes, students create rhythmic patterns and combine for a class piece.
- V. A Postcard, Poetry, and a Song. Looking at a postcard (abstract), students create a story to go with the card, then create a piece of music using instruments of their choice. Perform for class. Evaluate.
- VI. History. Make western music accessible by finding creative alternatives to simply listening. Examples: boomwhackers with Bach's Minuet, Tone chimes with "Ode to Joy".
- VII. Music of other cultures. Using barred instruments create an African piece of music with layered rhythmic ostinati. Folk dances of other countries are always a hit.

Part Three: Making Movies

Having the students involved in movie making truly solidifies their understanding of musical ideas. It is also a way of exposing students to important concepts and experiencing things they would not normally see. I have been able to tailor my teaching through self-made videos, reaching my students with exactly what they need at this time. Putting them to work with the filming also gives them ownership and a more focused involvement.

Information:

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