

Some of the greatest written works of our time have been inspired by music. Walt Whitman conceived of and wrote “Leaves of Grass” while listening to opera. Alice Walker, Langston Hughes, Ntozake Shange and Ralph Ellison were all moved by spirituals, jazz and blues. And Lin-Manuel Miranda’s rap musical “Hamilton” was born of his love of hip-hop. These writers understood what many educational researchers know — that music opens up pathways to creative thinking, sharpens our ability to listen and helps us weave together disparate ideas.

Pick One

Write a poem inspired by classical music. Listen to the music as you write.	Write a poem inspired by a musical genre of your choice. Listen to the music as you write.	Write a poem about what music means to you.
Find a painting you love. Write a poem, rap, or song about that painting.	Be creative. Write a poem, rap, or song about something that is your choice.	Write a poem about what art means to you.
Write a song, rap, or poem related to current events.	Write a song, poem, or rap comparing to genres of music.	Write a song, poem, or rap about something that you think is wrong.