

MUSTC 121 / First-Year Audio Recording 1

PRODUCTION ANALYSIS LOG / EXTRA CREDIT

What? A Production Analysis Log, as it pertains to this class, is simply a brief (one or two pages) written analysis of a recorded musical performance. The log shall include both a musical and technical analysis of the selected song or performance.

Why? The purpose of the production analysis log exercise is to develop your producer/engineer listening skills. Being an effective listener is one of the greatest traits an audio professional can have. This exercise will force you to consider and analyze elements of a production that may otherwise go unnoticed.

How? Begin by selecting a production to analyze. The following lists describe the topics you shall address.

Required information/topics of discussion (if information is available):

- Song title
- Artist
- Genre
- Date of release
- Producer & Engineer
- Instrumentation
- Spatial placement (Panning and front to back processing)
- Use of effects processing
- Song form

Optional topics of discussion (you must address at least a few of these):

- Lyric/musical relationship. (Does the music support the lyric?)
- Instrumental relationships (example: The kick drum/bass guitar relationship.)
- Emotional impact of song, production, mix, etc. (example: how does that distorted flute make you feel?)
- Vocal/Instrumentation relationship (Is the band supporting the vocalist? If so, how?)
- Overall sonic quality/mood (examples: lo-fi, pristine, intense, atmospheric, etc. How so?)
- Usage of production tricks (examples: vocal doubling, reverse reverb, etc.)
- Anything else you think of.

IMPORTANT NOTE: You DON'T have to like everything about the recording. But, if you have a problem with something tell me why.