

An Investigation of Support for Community Bands:
A Sample Proposal and Outline Assignment Response for
ENGL 135 at DeVry University in San Antonio
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I was a bandsman from sixth grade through my second year as an undergraduate, and I had loved playing saxophone for quite some time. I had put my horn aside, though, and left it alone for years until the summer of 2018, when one of the non-profit organizations in my hometown put out a call for musicians to join a new community jazz band. The ensemble accepted me, and I have been happy to sit in rehearsals and perform once again. But all such groups have their problems, among which is a need for support to keep charts coming in, secure rehearsal space, and take care of members who need it. I want the band I play with to keep going, so looking into how I can help that happen seemed a thing to do.

I. Introduction

A. Topic

- 1) Research Question: What is the best means for supporting community bands, and how can that means be enacted to best effect?
- 2) Working Thesis: Solicitation of small-scale grants from local non-profit agencies and individual donors, as well as support from local governmental agencies, is likely to offer the best chance of support for community bands.
- 3) Angle: What is your angle on the topic? (Your angle is your unique perspective or view on the issue.)

B. Context

- 1) Importance of the Topic: As is demonstrated by Ibarra (2017) and others, communal performance serves multiple community-building functions, helping to support local group identities. Community bands offer such, so supporting them is important. Supporting them in the best ways is even more so—but that demands knowing what ways are best.
- 2) Personal Ethos for the Project: I am in position to write about supporting community bands because I am in one and so have an embedded understanding of their needs and their value. I have also been a member of community support organizations in the past, as well as working for one at present, so I understand what resources are available to address a variety of needs.

C. Audience

- 1) Expected Primary Audience: The expected primary readers are members of my local community who are in position to offer support to community bands. City and county leaders, as well as leaders within community non-profits and local schools, are among such.
- 2) Expected Secondary Audience: The expected secondary readers are students in my future classes who will be asked in assignments to complete such activities as the present project commands. Another set of hoped-for secondary readers includes other educators teaching in the same curriculum or similar curricula, whom I hope will benefit from ready access to additional examples.

- 3) Audience Opinions and Values: The primary readers are likely to respond to pathos appeals and straightforward, less-intricate presentations. They are generally invested in the local community doing well, although they may need convincing that specific forms of support are the most appropriate means for helping the community to do well.

II. Evidence

- A. Evidence Gathered: To date, I've read Augustin (2010) and Ibarra (2017). I also have access to my embedded experiences as a member of a community band and a long-time member of my current local community.
- B. Evidence to Be Gathered: I will need to review the other articles revealed by my initial search (inputting "community band" into *Academic Search Complete* and limiting my search to full-text peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and case studies published since 2010). I will likely also need to expand my search from those initial parameters. Data regarding my local community will also need to be reviewed for best effect.

III. Conclusion

In the project, I hope to identify what kinds of support are best for a community jazz band and to make something like a template from which I can solicit such support for specific sources in my local community. That is, I mean to identify the kind of need my organization has and look for ways I can start to fill that need from local sources.

IV. References

- Augustin, C. (2010). A descriptive study to determine the opinions of community band members regarding the effectiveness of comprehensive musicianship. *International Journal of Community Music*, 3(2), 175-183. doi: 10.1386/ijcm.3.2.175_1
- Ibarra., F.P. (2017). Voices from devotional ritual: Practitioners' unity of purpose to building community in *araquio* musical tradition. *International Journal of Community Music*, 10(2), 171-192. doi: 10.1386/ijcm.10.2.171_1