

My topic ties to the History Day theme because Impressionism in music shows how new frontiers of music and composers such as Claude Debussy aren't easily accepted by the public and the musical academies alike (Knight 4). This is due to people being accustomed to sounds of the past (Ross). This is apparent in the works of Wagner when people were so accustomed to the "Wagnerian" sounds of the late Romantic style operas, that they were instantly dismissive when Debussy attempted to engineer a different style of music (Ross). Impressionism and other branches of modern music are frontiers of music due to them being different and showing artistic freedom (Knight 1). The music sounds different from other periods because of the use of the dominant 7th chord, the use of sevenths and ninths in major triads, and the use of the interval of a fourth in chords (Boulanger 115-116). These harmonic intervals have a dissonance that don't resolve., unlike the dissonances of the prior periods of music (Boulanger 117). This gives impressionistic pieces a sound like no other piece of music (Boulanger 117). The frontier of Impressionism becomes apparent when one realizes Impressionistic pieces aren't so reliant on the formality of the Classical period (Eschman 157).

I chose this topic because music is something that interests me. I enjoy learning about music theory and why different periods of music sounded different. I also believe that people should have the artistic freedom to create music however they please. I enjoy listening to the sounds of Debussy as each piece paints a different picture in the listener's mind. I picked this topic because it is a frontier and the sounds of this period create a mood unlike the boring formality of the Classical period. The moods these pieces create are so intriguing that it led me to choose this as my topic. For example the piece "Clair de Lune", almost feels as though you are having a solitary walk through nature, late at night. I chose this topic because the ingenuity of these composers was truly fascinating to me

I conducted my research by looking for a source that explained the music theory behind Impressionism. I looked for old dissertations and theses that explained how people thought of this music at the time, and analysis of what made it sound different. I also had to find a source that showed how Impressionism finally made a breakthrough and changed people's perception of music.

I created my project by making a page for the home screen, the background of Impressionism, impact, influence, importance, a page for my process paper, and my annotated bibliography. I added text explaining each of these topics, I added images of important composers, and I added a video containing music in my frontier section.