

**Composition seminar
Dartmouth College
Spring 2013**

Assignment 1: A Formal Presentation

This assignment simulates the kind of professional activity some of you aspire to: delivering a carefully written, edited and thoroughly considered, insightful “essay” on some interesting topic, to an audience of your peers. The assignment is also, explicitly, about what it might mean to articulate music.

You are to:

- Pick a piece of electronic music from the 1473 section of Paddock (CDs).
- Write an original essay about that piece, at the level, say, of a professional conference on electronic music, composition, or musicology.
- Make the essay available to us one day before the class, as well as a recording of the piece.
- Deliver the “paper” as a talk, with time for questions in class. You have 20 minutes (strict).

You don’t need to play the piece in class (we’ll all be responsible for listening to it, as well as reading your essay beforehand). You may, as in a public presentation, deviate from, enhance, or comment on your written work (which, for the sake of simulation, you should assume has been already sent out for publication in the conference proceedings).

Say something new, interesting, important and learned, not just at the level of a graduate seminar at the M.A. level. You will need to research what others have said in writing, and in other ways, about the piece, again, at more than a superficial level (this assignment will, I hope, take a great deal of time).

Assume, for the sake of the exercise, that the audience is composed of highly knowledgeable people at advanced stages of their work. Another way to think of this exercise is as what is unfortunately known as a “job talk.”

The form of your articulation is up to you. Although the exercise is conventional, your response, as would be the case in public as you do this sort of thing, need not be.