

# Assessment of Student Reflections

## Purpose of Activity:

- \*To give students time for reflection in order to further instill the lesson
- \*To allow students step back and see what that have accomplished
- \*To give me (the teacher) an idea of where the students stand and to give me possible feedback so that I can improve my own teaching

## Results:

- \*The students remembered a surprising amount from their lessons, remembering little details like accents and dynamics.
- \*Similar things seemed to be found difficult- there were a number of students who found the hand position changes the most difficult aspect.
- \*Each of them found something different that they thought was the easiest- some answers were counting, playing hands separate, middle C, theory, and learning the notes.
- \*They all found ways that music helped them, whether it be music class in school or writing their own compositions.
- \*They enjoyed writing down their responses- perhaps because it was something new, or perhaps they could step back and see all that they have done. It was probably both.

## Reflection:

How did the responses change according to age?

Because there is such a large range (7-65), I was very interested to tackle this question. Although the two adults (ages 40 and 65) could articulate much clearer, it seemed that most of the students found a sense of satisfaction in a similar way- Being able to play a piece well and feeling like they've truly accomplished something of value. The adults seem to be pickier than the students in terms of perfecting things, but students really surprise me their perfectionist qualities (namely Connor, but his responses didn't reflect this as much as others' did).

How did the response change according to time studying the piano?

Obviously, the things I taught in the lesson were much more in depth with the students studying for a while, so they think more specifically in terms of what to fix and what to work on. Laura (studying for 1 year) talked about smoothness and aiming, which are relatively advanced concepts. What was most surprising, and most impressive, was when R.J., studying for 4 months, what he enjoyed most about playing piano: The Grace.