

Karen Boubel
Fall 2007

IPEL FINAL REPORT

1. Title of Project: Critical Thinking in the Process of Writing Music
2. Purpose: To strengthen the role of critical thinking as students approach the process of composing music.
3. Results: My project will be implemented in both semesters of 2007-2008. I am working with my student composers, who have private lessons with me and then gather monthly for the sharing of their composition progress. I am presenting each of them with a set of key questions to reflect upon and discuss with me before they write their respective compositions. After engaging their personal dispositions, I hope they will stay in a circulatory process of analyzing, evaluating, changing and reflecting, revisiting their conceptualizations. The final results will be a more successful and satisfying music composition, and a student composer who will continue to ask those key questions on their own as they compose in the future.
4. Issues: I cannot yet describe what challenges arose since I am implementing the project this fall. One challenge that I anticipate is the different levels of acceptance from individual students to the thought provoking questions I am asking them to deal with before they begin composing.
5. Dissemination: I will offer to present the project to my faculty colleagues at a Music Retreat this year; make a presentation on campus at an appropriate event; depending upon the results of the implementation, submit to make a presentation at the College Music Society.