

Composite Synthesis (Reading & Writing) At a Glance

Gregory Chase

Definitions:

Composite Synthesis: At this level of learning, “students learn to audiate tonality or meter of one or more series of familiar tonal patterns or rhythm patterns in familiar or unfamiliar order as they read and write patterns using skills they acquired both at the partial synthesis and symbolic association levels of learning” (Gordon, 2012, p. 126).

Composite Synthesis-Reading: Highest (most advanced) level of discrimination learning. At this level of learning, students learn to read comprehensively, using tonal syllables and rhythm syllables, series of tonal patterns, and series of rhythm patterns taught at lower levels of learning (Gordon, 2012, p. 393).

Composite Synthesis-Writing: Highest (most advanced) level of discrimination learning. At this level of learning, students learn to notate comprehensively, using tonal syllables and rhythm syllables, series of tonal patterns, and series of rhythm patterns taught at lower levels of learning (Gordon, 2012, p. 393).

Purpose:

- Read and write series of familiar tonal patterns and rhythm patterns using tonal syllables and rhythm syllables and traditional notation.
- Name the tonalities and meters of the patterns that are being read and written. (NOTE: This is what makes it different from Symbolic Association.)

What does learning at the Symbolic Association level look like?

- “Students start reading and writing longer series of familiar patterns” (Lange, 2005, p. 21).
- Students attend not only to series of patterns but simultaneously are aware of the tonality and meter of those patterns . . . they start bringing everything together

Stages of Audiation at Composite Synthesis

Stage 1 – Momentary retention

Stage 2 – Imitating and audiating tonal patterns and rhythm patterns and recognizing and identifying a tonal center and macrobeats

Stage 3 – Establishing objective or subjective tonality and meter

Stage 4 – Retaining in audiation tonal patterns and rhythm patterns that have been organized

Stage 5 – Recalling tonal patterns and rhythm patterns organized and audiated in other music

Types of Audiation at Composite Synthesis

Type 2 – Reading familiar or unfamiliar music

Type 3 – Writing familiar or unfamiliar music from dictation

Type 5 – Recalling and writing familiar music from memory