

# Symbolic Association (Reading & Writing) At a Glance

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## Definitions:

**Symbolic Association:** At this level of learning, students read/notate familiar tonal patterns and rhythm patterns in familiar or unfamiliar order they have been taught at aural/oral and verbal association levels of learning (Gordon, 2012, pp. 410-411).

**Symbolic Association-Reading:** A level of discrimination learning. At this level of learning, students read familiar tonal patterns and rhythm patterns in familiar or unfamiliar order they have been taught at aural/oral and verbal association levels of learning (Gordon, 2012, p. 410).

**Symbolic Association-Writing:** A level of discrimination learning. At this level of learning, students notate familiar tonal patterns and rhythm patterns in familiar or unfamiliar order they have been taught at aural/ oral and verbal association levels of learning (Gordon, 2012, p. 411).

## Purpose:

- Read and write familiar tonal patterns and rhythm patterns using tonal and rhythm syllables and traditional notation.
- Helps students better understand what they can already audiate.

## What does learning at the Symbolic Association level look like?

- Students learn to read and write familiar tonal patterns and rhythm patterns in familiar and unfamiliar order in familiar tonalities and familiar meters they learned to audiate and label at the A/O and VA levels of learning.
- Learn to read entire patterns:
  - Individual pitches and durations are not given consideration – that falls under theoretical understanding (this is regarded as “decoding” if they are not audiating).

## Stages of Audiation at Symbolic Association

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 Symbolic Association

Type 2 – Reading familiar or unfamiliar music

Type 5 – Recalling and writing familiar music from memory