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STUDENT HANDOUT

YELLOW LEVEL
GRADE LEVEL

Sound Illusions

Grades 5–8 • Music

ADMIT ONE

NAME

DATE

CLASS

PART 1

01

The Science of Sound Manipulation

Composers and media creators use specific musical elements to manipulate emotions. Understanding these techniques helps you become a critical listener.

Key Concept: Music doesn't just accompany media — it actively shapes how we interpret and feel about what we see and hear.

PART 2

02

Musical Elements Analysis

For each element, explain how it affects the listener:

ELEMENT	WHEN IT'S HIGH / FAST / MAJOR	WHEN IT'S LOW / SLOW / MINOR
Tempo		
Mode (Major/Minor)		
Dynamics (Volume)		
Pitch/Register		

PART 3

03

Analyze Two Pieces

Listen to the two clips your teacher plays. Identify the techniques used:

Clip A: What emotion does this create? _____

What musical elements create this feeling?

Clip B: What emotion does this create? _____

What musical elements create this feeling?

PART 4

04

Same Scene, Different Music

How did the two different soundtracks change your perception of the same video?

With happy/upbeat music:

With tense/scary music:

What does this teach us about how media manipulates our emotions?

MINI MUSEUM CONNECTION

Spirit photographers manipulated visual trust by exploiting new technology. Film composers manipulate emotional trust using ancient musical principles. Both rely on the same thing: we don't always notice HOW we're being influenced.

How is sound manipulation similar to visual manipulation?

minimuseumproject.org/exhibitions/seeing-is-deceiving

SHARE WITH YOUR FAMILY

Watch a movie or show with your family. Identify ONE scene where the music strongly influences how you feel. Explain to your family what techniques are being used.