

# Arguing BEETHOVEN

## After the Movie “Beethoven Lives Upstairs”

Students should ponder their answers to these questions; do not encourage quick answers or immediate hands up. There are no right or wrong answers, but they must support their own answer with examples from the movie.

Write each of these five questions on a large index card. Place each card in a folded construction paper envelope, with a music symbol used by composers (i.e., treble clef, sharp, eighth note, repeat sign, quarter rest, etc.) on the outside. (This eliminates the questions having a 1-5 order; instead, they have to identify the sign as you call for that envelope.)

Teachers may choose to present these questions in many different formats, such as:

- \*Divide students in five groups. Assign one question to each group to be discussed among them. Allow them to each share their opinions and LISTEN to each other.

- \*Rotate questions or students, or even have them share one group at a time with the class.

- \*Present one question at a time to an entire class for argumentative discussion. Following the TPS (“**Think, Pair, Share**”) model, have students first silently THINK about their own response(s). Then have each student PAIR up with a neighbor and share thoughts. Allow several students to SHARE aloud to the class their opinions. Try to encourage students to answer in complete sentences when speaking aloud.

- \*Students choose one question for argumentative writing, formal or journal.

## Arguing BEETHOVEN pg. 2

### Questions:

1. Would Beethoven have been a good father? Why?
2. If you had lived in the same apartment house as Beethoven, would you and he have been friends or enemies? Why?
3. What career do you think Beethoven would have chosen if his father hadn't pressured him to practice so much as a young child? Explain.
4. If you were to learn today that you are gradually losing your hearing, and that you would eventually be totally deaf, would this change the way you live? Explain. And what about your feelings, your emotions?
5. If Beethoven had lived 200 years later (1970-2027...TODAY!), would he have written the exact same pieces of music? Why? Explain.

### NOTE:

Students may show real passion in this activity, esp. if they try to convince others of their response, in opposition to another. GREAT!!!!!! ... but in a kind, respectful, "debate" style, please! Sit back and be amazed!