



EDUCATIONAL SOFTWARE



(1) General Software Review. In this activity you will be reviewing software that you would find useful in your roll as a teacher. Note, this is a review of software, not websites. Websites can be used only if they have a high level of interactivity and animation such as those at ExploreLearning.com. Although we have software on our local servers, much of it is antiquated, and students are best served by downloading freeware and shareware.


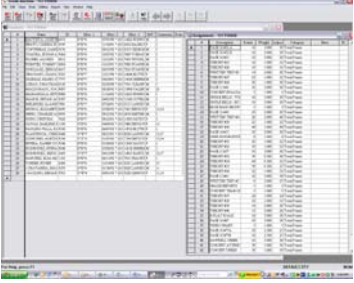
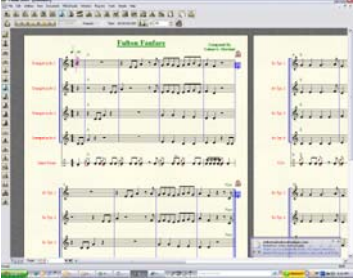

- Review five or more pieces of educational software. You are free to choose any piece of software that is of value either for instructional, administrative, or professional purposes. You must have hands-on experience with the software... watching someone's software review is not sufficient.
- Write a paragraph describing each program and your professional opinion of its usefulness in education.
- At least one of your titles should be freeware or shareware that you have downloaded from the Internet.
- Include a screen capture from the software.
- Choose the best one from among these 5 for the formal software review/presentation.

Title

Review

Screen Capture

	Title	Review	Screen Capture
1	Wave Pad Sound Editor (Freeware)	This is a sound editor that allows you to import an audio file, such as an mp3 or mp4 file. Once imported, you can edit the file. You can cut and paste, you can change timbres, frequencies, etc. You can then burn CD's with your newly edited files, or import them into a program such as iTunes, and sync it to an mp3 player.	

2	Smart Music Studio	<p>This is accompaniment software for practicing. You can import audio files of a piece you are working are, and you can play along to it. You can change the tempo of the song in order to slow it down for practicing, and then speed it up for performance. It functions as a metronome since can be slowed down and sped up electronically.</p>	
3	Grade Machine	<p>This is a grading program that I have used for a number of years. It has a roll book function, for keeping your own roll. It also has a grading function, for entering assignments and grades. It allows you to chart the scores of the class. You can also print grade reports for your students. It will also do seating charts for you automatically for each of your classes.</p>	
4	Finale	<p>This is a music notation program that will allow you to enter music and print it in a publishable format. You can enter the music by hand, using the computer keyboard and mouse, or you can enter music via a music keyboard, using a MIDI (musical instrument digital interface) interface, playing it in in real time with the piano keyboard, or in your own time, with the use of the keyboard pedal.</p>	
5	Cubase	<p>This is a music sequencing program that allows you to put together your own tracks and turn them into songs or pieces. You can digitally record audio, and import it into the program, or you can enter music in via a MIDI interface. This program will allow you to keep all your instruments separate, and then they can be sequenced properly, by arranging them.</p>	

(2) Formal Software Review. In this activity you will be reviewing software that you would find useful in your roll as a teacher. Note, this is a review of software, not websites. Websites can be used only if they have a high level of interactivity and animation such as those at ExploreLearning.com. Although we have software on our local servers, much of it is antiquated, and students are best served by downloading

freeware and shareware.

- Select one software product for formal review and presentation to the class. Write reviews for each according to the format guidelines provided on the following page. Post your selection.

Title: Finale 2009

(1) Description of Program: This is a music notation program that will allow you to enter music and print it in a publishable format. You can enter the music by hand, using the computer keyboard and mouse, or you can enter music via a music keyboard, using a MIDI (musical instrument digital interface) interface, playing it in real time with the piano keyboard, or in your own time, with the use of the keyboard pedal.

(2) Basic Information: Finale 2009, put out by Make Music. Available for both Windows and Macintosh.

(3) Target Population: For the full version, I would think that would be more for the music teacher, not a student, as it can be quite expensive (\$600). The Finale Notepad version can be used by students, however, as it is quite inexpensive (\$10).

(4) Content Goals: State standard strand for Creative Expression. Students learn to read and write music notation. Students will learn to compose their own songs.

(5) Process Goals: Learn basic fundamentals of music theory and composition by creating your own song or composition.

(6) Lesson Plan: Instructor will set up a template for each student with the basic melody of a beginner song that the class has all learned, such as "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." The template will have the solo or melody line, with the blank staves for piano accompaniment. The melody line notes will be there, but in basic rhythmic form, so some measures may not be complete. First, the students will learn how to transpose the song for the instrument that they play, as some instruments use different clef signs, and play in different keys than others. Once the piece is in the correct key and clef they can then start working on their composition. Students will need to go through the melody line and complete it, changing some of the notes and rhythms to make sure that it is accurate. They will then write their own piano accompaniment to the melody, and perform it in class. The bass line will be given on the template, and they will fill in the rest of the harmony to go with the melody & bass line. The accompaniment music must be correct both rhythmically, and harmonically with the melody line.

(7) Summary: By having students go through the process of transposition, it will help them to gain an understanding of what it is like to write music for various instruments.

They will also understand why they can't always play songs together, if the songs have not been transposed properly. By going through the melody line of the song to check for accuracy, they are gaining an understanding correct notes and rhythm in music theory. While composing their own accompaniment part, the students will gain an understanding of both rhythm and harmony, making sure that their accompaniment goes along with the melody of the song.

(3) Formal Presentation of Software: One or two sessions will be scheduled for formal software review. During these sessions you will present your software in small groups or to the class using network sharing software such as Apple Remote Desktop. Once you have decided on software to review, post your decision on the newsgroup as specified in class or on the web-page. First-come, first-served.

- Make a presentation of your software using the following guidelines. Each presentation must be limited to 15 minutes.
- Your presentations should stress how this software can be used effectively in the curriculum.
- Do not spend time discussing mechanics (menu structure, etc.) nor shortcomings
- Illustrate how the software can be used to enhance instruction.
- Provide your peers with a "hands-on experiences" lesson if at all possible.

Done in class.