

UNIT: UKULELE

ACT-BASED ENGLISH: RHETORICAL SKILLS & CONCISENESS IN MUSIC REVIEWS

OBJECTIVE:

Enhance rhetorical and stylistic precision by analyzing and improving music-related writing.

ACT SCORE TARGET: 28-32**STUDENT DIRECTIONS:****Goal:**

You will strengthen your ability to write with clarity, precision, and style by **editing and creating reviews** of ukulele performances. This activity focuses on using rhetorical skills to **eliminate wordiness**, improve **sentence flow**, and select **more impactful vocabulary**—all skills essential for scoring 28–32 on the ACT English section.

Step 1: Analyze a Wordy Music Review

You will receive a sample review that includes:

- Redundant words
- Repetitive phrases
- Weak or vague vocabulary

Your task is to:

- Identify parts of the review that are **wordy, repetitive, or unclear**
- Use editing marks or comments to suggest revisions
- Rewrite the review in a **more concise, clear, and stylistically effective** way

Focus Areas:

- Replace vague or generic adjectives with specific, vivid ones
- Remove unnecessary repetition (e.g., “amazing, incredible, breathtaking” → choose one)
- Fix awkward phrasing and improve sentence transitions

Step 2: Learn Rhetorical Strategies

Your teacher will guide you through three key rhetorical strategies that are tested on the ACT:

1. Eliminating Redundancy:

- Avoid repeating the same idea multiple times.
- Example: “feel feelings of joy and excitement” → “feel joy and excitement”

2. Choosing Precise Vocabulary:

- Replace weak words with stronger, more accurate ones.
- Example: “very good” → “impressive,” “memorable,” or “powerful”

3. Improving Sentence Flow & Transitions:

- Make sure ideas connect smoothly.
- Use transition words like “however,” “as a result,” or “in contrast” only when they help logic.

Step 3: Write Your Own 100-Word Ukulele Performance Review

Now it’s your turn to create! Choose a ukulele song or performance (live or recorded) and write a **100-word review** that:

- Includes clear and specific language
- Shows your opinion with evidence (what made the performance effective?)
- Applies the rhetorical skills you practiced
- Uses smooth transitions between ideas

Optional: Include descriptive phrases about tone, technique, rhythm, or audience impact to strengthen your review.

ACT ENGLISH SKILLS FOCUS:

- Conciseness & Word Choice
- Rhetorical Effectiveness
- Logical Flow & Transitions

ACT-STYLE QUESTION:

The ukulele performance was amazing, incredible, and breathtaking, creating a very emotional and deeply moving experience that made everyone feel feelings of joy and excitement.

- What is the best revision?
 - A. The ukulele performance was an emotional experience that thrilled the audience.
 - B. The ukulele performance was breathtaking and deeply moving, making everyone feel emotions of joy and excitement.
 - C. The amazing ukulele performance created a truly incredible and deeply moving experience for all.
 - D. The ukulele performance was a very emotional and exciting experience, making people feel thrilled and joyous.