



## RESOURCES FOR STUDENT MUSICIANS

### Music skills and attributes I: Professionalism

Professionalism is a hard topic to get your head around when you're a student, and yet you will have experienced both professional and unprofessional behaviour at some point. This resource features a series of short activities which prompt you to analyse what you identify as professional behaviour and to find examples you can use as evidence when you seek work. There is no preparation needed for this activity and it can be completed in as little as 20 minutes.

#### The process

1. First, work with a classmate to develop a list of professional attributes that you feel cover both artistic and non-artistic aspects of professionalism in music. Give yourselves only two or three minutes to generate as many professional attributes as you can.
2. Next, combine your lists in a shared document or blog. See whether you can generate more positive attributes of professionalism by talking with other people.
3. Share stories that illustrate your own experiences of these attributes (including those when professional traits were lacking). This can be done as a whole class and it's often quite funny, but you might hear sad stories as well.
4. Make some notes on your personal views of professionalism and how you approach and intend to approach this in your life and career. Draw on examples from your own experience. This is the start of your statement.
5. Now turn your draft text into a short statement for use the next time you apply for work or a new study opportunity.
6. Finally, make a note of the attributes you would like to develop, and challenge you to seek opportunities to do so.



This resource comes from *Life in the Real World: How to Make Music Graduates Employable*, published by Common Ground in 2012. Purchasers of the book are permitted to download all of the tools and resources.

If you have yet to purchase the book, please order it from [here](#).

This resource was contributed by Janis Weller and Dawn Bennett.

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